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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

uly 1st, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 26 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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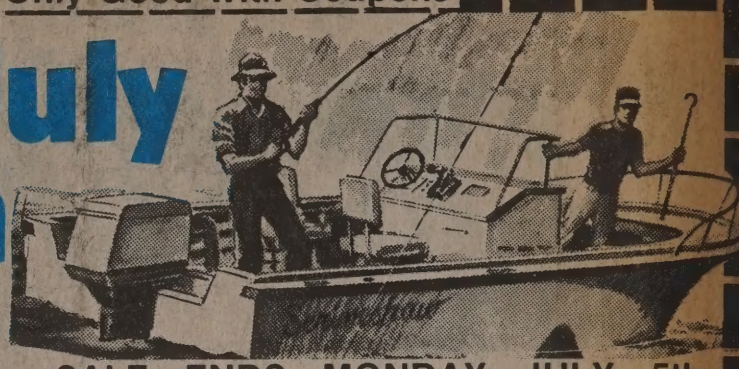
Monday July 5th Special Store Hours: 9:00-4:00



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 26 July 1st, 1982

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About the Cover—

All that commotion on the surface is the result of white marlin inhaling Zac Grossman's popping plug! See Zac's article, "Taking Big Fish Lightly," on page 24.

COMING NEXT WEEK: ★ SUMMER SURF ACTION ★

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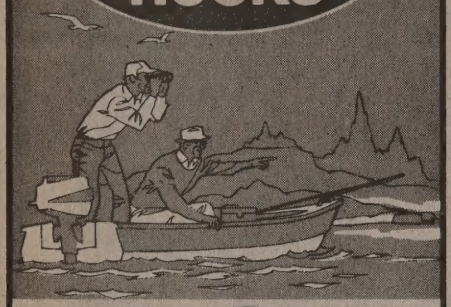
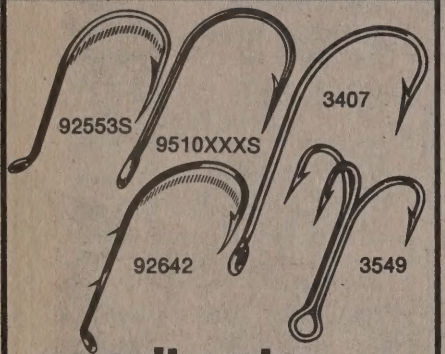
REMEMBER! BLUEFISH LOVE NORDIC EELS!

MUSTAD SALT WATER HOOKS





no salt water lure is any better than its hook

That's why most salt water anglers and lure manufacturers rely on Mustad's sturdy wires and corrosion-resistant finishes for the most dependable hooks. All tackle box favorites, here's a selection of patterns and finishes used for a host of salt water fishes from porgy to marlin.

Jigs, Plugs, Spoons: #3549 **Treble**—Superior pt., ringed, cadmium pltd. and tinned.

Baitholder: #92642 **Beak**—Hollow pt., down-eye, gold-pltd., forged, reversed, 2 slices in long shank.

Bait, Trolling Flies: #92553S **Beak**—X long hollow pt., tapered up-eye, stainless steel, forged, reversed, X strong.

Bait, Replacement on Lures: #9510-XXXS **Salmon**—Hollow pt., open soft ring, stainless steel, 3X strong, wide bend.

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Pass It On...

BABYLON TUNA CLUB INVITATIONAL SLATED FOR JULY 25-26

The 26th Annual Babylon Tuna Club's Invitational Tournament will be held July 25 and 26 at the Babylon Town dock. Tournament is open to both individuals (entry fee $125) and clubs (entry fee $300). Participating boats must be at least 23' in length and be equipped with a CB or VHF radio.

Last year's tournament resulted in some impressive fish being caught. Ray Seagren won a 5/0 and 8/0 International with matching rods for his 207 lb. bigeye tuna caught on the Miss Marion. The largest shark was 730 lbs. caught by Pat Gambino and the largest marlin of 57 lbs. was caught by Ed Lock. Each won a 5/0 International. Many other prizes and trophies were awarded for tuna, mako, shark, marlin and bonito.

All fish caught (except those for mounts) will be sold at the dock with all proceeds going to the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

Those interested in participating in this year's tournament can call George Huggler on 516-666-3936, or write to the Babylon Tuna Club, Attention: George Huggler, P.O. Box 123, Babylon, N.Y. 11702.

SEARS STORES OFFER LOCALIZED FISHING GEAR, INFORMATION

To help both amateurs and pros learn more about fishing their local waters, some 700 Sears stores have "flip" books dividing the U.S. into 10 regions and listing the Gamefisher rods and reels appropriate to each.

The books show the fish found in each area, the best methods (trolling, casting, pier, stillfishing, surfcasting) and proper line test. Full color pictures of the tackle come with such information as gear ratio, weight and line capacity for reels, and length and hardware for rods.

Each participating store offers broad corresponding assortments of rods and reels tailored for the region and recommended by Ted Williams, Sears Fishing advisor.

For 1982, there are sensitive, lightweight, quick-recovery graphite rods for bait casting, spinning and fly fishing. The bait casting model has a cushioned offset pistol grip reinforced with fiberglass for strength.

The spinning rod features a composition handle with double-locking rings to keep the reel in place. There's also a new line of graphite and fiberglass fly, spinning and bait casting rods.

There are two new Gamefisher bait casting reels, one with sealed stainless steel ball bearings for smooth, easy action. The other has graphite composite bearings.

The reels feature narrow spools for a lightweight, compact design. The spools' disengaging level wind provides fast starts and long casts, even with light lures. A table on the reels converts line test into line capacity. Both models have fast right-side take down to allow spool and brake collar changes without special tools. A contoured left-side plate fits the hand for those who palm their reels while casting.

Sears Gamefisher rods and reels are available in most major Sears stores and the company's boating and fishing catalog.

NEW ANCHOR CADDY HAULS IN BOAT ANCHOR & RE-ANCHORS IT AUTOMATICALY WITHOUT INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL POWER SOURCE

There is an ingeniously simple, marvelously practical device that automatically hauls in your boat anchor and then, if you want, re-anchors the boat once it has been moved to another location—without any external or internal power source.

Called ANCHOR CADDY, it was designed and engineered mainly for fishermen who often must shift the boat from place to place to locate a good fishing spot. Because of its safety feature, Anchor Caddy is also great for children who have use of the family outboard. Anchor caddy automatically retrieves the anchor and, once you have moved to another location, it re-anchors the boat effortlessly.

The boat occupants do nothing—no hand pulling of the anchor line, no exertion, no need to leave the seat, no tangled fish lines caused by doing too many things at once. It greatly reduces the danger of losing your footing and falling within the boat or overboard, too.

The instructions are clear and brief. Her is how the **patented** Anchor Caddy works: with the device be-

tween the boat and the anchor, insert your line in the Anchor Caddy pulley. Once it is in position, with the anchor next to the Anchor Caddy, place the two over the side of the boat, holding the Caddy handle. Squeeze the operating ring under the handle and the anchor will run to the bottom, at which time you toss the Anchor Caddy into the water. You are now anchored normally.

When you are ready to move to another spot simply start the boat motor and head there. Anchor Caddy automatically retrieves the anchor. When the boat stops, it will re-anchor it. When desiring to leave simply reach over the side of the boat and lift Anchor Caddy and the anchor from the surface of the water into the boat. It also acts as a marker buoy and sea anchor for use in extra slow trolling.

Made of the highest quality stainless steel, brass and styrofoam, Anchor Caddy is fully corrosion resistant, even when immersed in saltwater. The ruggedly engineered unit will handle anchors weighing up to 30 lbs. (most outboard anchors weigh between 8 and 15 lbs.). When the boat is rented from a livery, just pack the device with the rest of the fishing tackle at day's end. It's compact and light, weighing approximately 1½ lbs. It's manufactured to last a lifetime of fishing and boating.

A product of Fish-N-Mate Ltd., P.O. Box 948, Gloversville, NY 12078, it has a suggested retail price of $59.95. Anchor Caddy is being sold through boating, marine, fishing tackle, sporting goods, resort area hardware-home centers, and other retail outlets. A network of dealers and distributors is now being established to handle this and other quality products the company is introducing. For further information, write the company at the above address, or phone 518-762-1808.

"DEPTH-O-PLUG" HELPS ANGLERS ZERO IN ON DESIRED SPECIES OF FISH

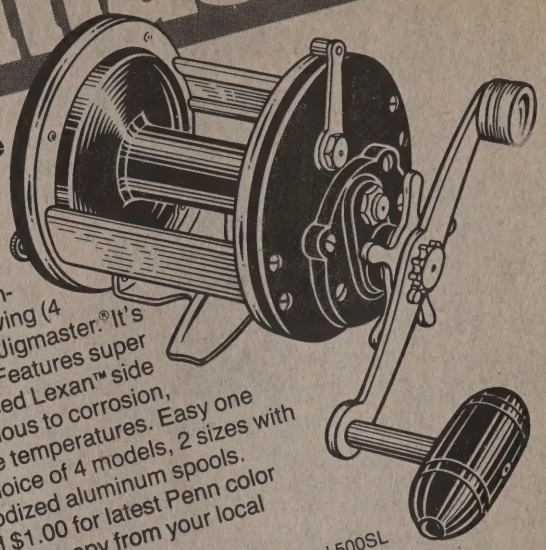
A device that enables anglers to zero in on the underwater locales most likely to harbor their favorite varieties of fish could just prove itself to be an irresistible lure for sport fishing enthusiasts in the coming months.

The "Depth-O-Plug," one of the latest products to be marketed by the Bead Chain Tackle Company, permits the fisherman to scientifically handicap his shot at landing a big one by measuring exact temperature conditions at specified depths.

Since fish tend to congregate at water levels that meet their optimum temperature and oxygen requirements—which vary with different species—the Depth-O-Plug's instant readout of temperature and depth provides the opportunity to find the spot best suited to the species being sought.

Besides being extremely useful in reconnoitering spring holes where fish are likely to converge during

Penn Jigmasters®



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Model 500SL with black anodized aluminum spool

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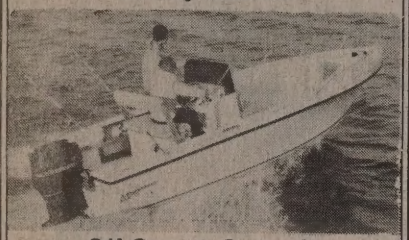

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warmer weather, the device also offers ice fishermen an ideal means of locating areas where warmer currents may draw them in winter.

The Depth-O-Plug comes complete with a chart listing the usual depths and temperatures at which popular species are most apt to be found, along with "fish finding tips."

Bead Chain Tackle is a division of Bead Chain Manufacturing Company, located at P.O. Box 252 Mountain Grove Street, Bridgeport, Conn. 06605.

NEW FLY LINE FLOATS HIGHER, SHOOTS FARTHER, LASTS LONGER

Since Scientific Anglers invented the modern floating fly line more than 23 years ago, fly lines have remained virtually the same—until now.

Following five years of research and testing, Scientific Anglers/3M has developed a new generation of floating fly lines based on a new chemical technology, Air Cel® Ultra. Ultra is a fly line that will float higher, shoot farther, and last longer, according to 3M.

Ultra floats higher because its new chemical formulation repels water and reduces the fly line's contact angle on the water's surface. Ultra's unique chemistry complements Scientific Angler's patented microsphere technology. This means Ultra rests on—rather than in—the surface film, resulting in easier pickups, and mending, and better line control, 3M said.

Ultra's superior shooting ability is built into the line's total chemistry—and is not simply a surface coating. The result is shootabilty that lasts for longer casts and provides easier, smoother, short casts.

Ultra's formulation reduces the effect of ultraviolet radiation, primary cause of cracking and fading. Ultra fly lines remain supple and smooth in cold and warm temperatures.

Scientific Anglers has also developed the Ultra Wet Tip Hi Speed Hi-D® floating/sinking fly line. Floating/sinking lines offer advantages of control and easy pickups associated with full floating lines combined with depth probing of full sinking lines. This Wet Tip fly line sinks nearly twice as fast as the present Wet Tip Hi-D® line, up to 5.25 inches per second. The line is recommended for steelhead and deep nymph fishermen, as well as saltwater fly anglers.

Ultra lines are available in double and weight forward tapers (line weights 3-11) in Buckskin Tan and Sunrise Orange; bass bug taper (line weights 6-13) in Buckskin Tan; and saltwater taper (line weight 8-13) in Gray. Ultra Hi Speed Hi-D® Wet Tip lines are available in weight forwward taper (line weights 5-10) in Buckskin Tan with a Gray tip.

Suggested retail price for all Ultra lines is $35. Ultra lines are available from retail tackle shops, mail order catalogs, and directly from Scientific Anglers. For more information on Ultra, write to Scientific Anglers/3M, Department A, 3M Center, 223-3S, St. Paul, MN 55144.

RADICALLY NEW FRESHWATER COOLING HITS SMALL DIESEL MARKET

The new GM-HM World Engines from Yanmar are now available with the newest and most technically advanced factory freshwater system ever designed for small diesels. The new Factory Fresh Models include the Yanmar 2GMF 15 h.p., 3GMF 22½ h.p. and 3HMF 30 h.p.

The modern "Multi-Cooler" which combines the heat exchanger, exhaust manifold and expansion tank, into a one unit design, eliminates a multitude of problems found on older designs such as extra hoses, fittings, brackets, etc.

If you're looking for quality features that only knowledge and experience can build into a marine diesel, go to the old pro—Yanmar. There's half a century of diesel technology and precision engineering in every engine Yanmar produces. Your family's safety may depend on it. For more info, write to: Mack Boring & Parts Company, 2365 Rt. 22 West, Union, New Jersey 07083.

FLAMBEAU'S BAIT BUCKET INSULATED & UNSINKABLE

From the manufacturer of Adventurer quality tackle boxes comes a convenient way to keep bait alive and kickin' for hours. A popularly priced thermo bucket with a full 10 quart capacity—floats upright and won't sink even when full of water.

A super tough molded corrosion-proof poly foam outer bucket provides insulation yet is strong enough to sit on. The inner removable self-draining liner bucket is constructed of high density polyethylene. This combination keeps the water cool and bait lively. Other features include an air pump slot and aluminum handle with poly grip.

For more information write: Flambeau Products Corp., 15981 Valplast Rd., Middlefield, OH 44062.

SLEEVES & CRIMPING TOOLS FROM SEVENSTRAND

Whether you prefer wire or heavy monofilament you can make your own leaders and rig your own offshore lures simply, easily and inexpensively with the use of Sevenstrand Sleeves and Crimping tools.

Sevenstrand sleeves are available in a wide range of sizes to fit most wire and monofilament # tests. When used with a Sevenstrand Crimping Tool, the sleeve is swaged tight around all surfaces of the wire/mono, providing a union superior to any other method. Sevenstrand's sleeves are X-tra heavy duty, manufactured from brass to ensure superior strength and dependability.

Sevenstrand "Deluxe" Tool crimps all sizes of sleeves and incorporates a vastly improved wire cutter. A thick

soft plastic coating on the handle makes for comfort and ease of use.

Rig with confidence; rig with dependable Sevenstrand Sleeves and Crimping Tools.

For more information write: Sevenstrand Tackle Corp., 5401 McFadden Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

IGFA RATED CORTLAND BRAIDED TROLLING LINE

Cortland's Dacron braided trolling line is precisely manufactured to meet the class specifications of the International Game Fish Association. The line is shock resistant, and has controlled stretch to withstand the heavy strikes that trolling produces. Because it is braided coreless, the line is easily spliced to eliminate the need for knots and retains its full tensile strength. Each bulk spool of Cortland Dacron Braided Line comes with a splicing needle for joining lines, making loops, or installing the double line. Test weights range from 12 to 200 lbs. Available from Cortland Authorized dealers in Greenspot, Bluespot and Black on 100, 500, 800, 1000, 1200 and 250 yard spools.

ADVENTURER ROD CASES

Three categories—Telescoping, Straight Line and Plus Value cases, appeal to every pocket book. Each Adventurer rod case is virtually indestructible, rods are secure and protected from breakage—ideal for the fisherman who travels by car, plane, or train to his favorite fishing area. Lightweight design is heat, warp, and impact resistant. Twist-on caps feature leather safety straps and a foam insert to protect rod tips.

An ideal gift, great not only for transporting but also for storing rods where space is limited. For more information write: Flambeau Products Corp., 15981 Valplast Rd., Middlefield, OH 44062.

TIE-FAST KNOT TYER FROM BOSAK ENTERPRISES

Tie the perfect knot. Tie-Fast Knot Tyer makes all fishing ties easy with one simple basic knot that can't come untied because the end is gripped by all turns of the knot. The greater the tension applied, the tighter the grip. It also splices leaders loop and line ties. Made of stainless steel it saves lures, fish and time. The Tie-Fast Knot Tyer sells for $3.95 from Bosak Enterprises, Dept. LIF, 19241 Napa St., Northridge, Calif. 91324.

SMALL BOAT AUTO-PILOT FROM FIRST MATE

First Mate II Powerboat Auto-Pilot is a unique, inexpensive autopilot designed for small boat fishermen and cruisers. The compact, lightweight unit, with an optional remote/dodger, is adaptable to virtually all steering systems, regardless of the type power: outboard, inboard or sterndrive. For further information, contact: John Cyr, First Mate Marine Auto-Pilots, 41 Kindred Ave., P.O. Box 2920, Stuart, FL 33495.

If all downriggers are alike, why do they all want to be like Riviera?

Model 1000 AR. Features include a 360° swivel base and right or left hand models. Unit powered by boat's 12 volt system.

Model 300 Manual. Recommended for stern mounting. Available in both right and left hand models.

We're the original. And we're the leader in fresh and saltwater controlled depth fishing. We have 15 patented features not found on any other system. And a complete line of nine models including left and right hand retrieve, electric auto retrieve, a built-in clutch to protect against snags that could break the trolling cable and a gear driven depth meter.

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NEW BLUEFIN TUNA REGULATIONS IN PLACE

by Al Ristori

Bluefin tuna regulations have been completely revised by the NMFS. Here is what the final breakdown looks like.

After months of hectic work, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has put completely revised Atlantic bluefin tuna regulations into effect as of June 10. The complete revision of the previous regs was initiated by last November's ICCAT conference which at first recommended that all fishing for bluefins in the western Atlantic be stopped—and then settled for an 800 metric ton catch for "monitoring" purposes.

The Fisherman has been following this situation closely ever since. We were at a State Department meeting in January at which the U.S. share of the tiny quota was assigned among the various interests in the fishery, primarily based on the value of each fishery to the monitoring effort. Then we sat through a solid week of negotiations at the Southeast Fisheries Lab in Miami in February—during which period the insistence of the Japanese and Canadians on higher shares of the quota than we had anticipated giving them resulted in an increase of the overall figure to 1160 metric tons—of which 605 metric tons (667 short tons) was allocated to the U.S.

Though this represented a reduction of over half of last year's bluefin tuna catch for the U.S., the Japanese were left with a by-catch in their longline fishery representing only about 8% of what they caught last year. Most importantly, they were eliminated completely from their winter fishery on the spawning giants in the Gulf of Mexico—which has been taking 7,000 to 10,000 giants per season.

Ever since this international agreement was reached, there has been in-fighting among American interests over the 667 short tons available to us. The tuna specialists at NMFS in Gloucester came up with some proposals which were sent to Washington and then cleared for public hearings in late April. Needless to say, these hearings created quite a stir—especially in New England. The five purse seiners who took over 50% of the fish last year would like to go on slaughtering the fish until they've got the last one, and the handliners who have made big money over the past several years would like to continue as if the fishery was still in good shape. They all point the accusing finger at the Japanese and call for inclusion of tunas in the 200 mile limit. I've long advocated such a move and still endorse it. However, the Japanese influence under the ICCAT agreement is now about as minimal as it's going to get. Even if they were kept outside of 200 miles, they could probably catch even more bluefins than they've now agreed to restrict themselves to.

Throughout this process we've kept you informed and urged you to write to your Congressmen and NMFS officials. The final regulations indicate that we were successful in at least one instance—though the big money interests once again had their way, with the purse seiners gaining huge concessions. Now let's take a look at how it all breaks down.

It was in the area of school tuna that we made our one big gain, even though that only represented a maintenance of the status quo. A total of 99 short tons of school tuna have been allocated to the rod and reel fishery, with the daily limit at the same four fish per man as has been in effect for some years. The school tuna category goes up to 135 lbs., but there is an allowance of one medium (between 135 and 310 lbs.) in the four man limit. Actually, the rationale for the latter restriction no longer exists. It was originally implemented to protect the last big year class of bluefins—that of 1973. However, those fish are now all giants—and probably constituted the majority of the giant tuna catch off Block Island last summer.

Originally, NMFS wanted to cut the school tuna catch down to two per person each day. However, we pointed out that the scientists had recommended that the rod and reel school fishery continue as before as the sole monitoring effort on school tuna—monitoring of the stocks being the only official reason for any directed bluefin tuna fishery this year. That being the case, any high school math student could inform the bureaucrats that changing the catch quota would make comparison of the catch impossible (without throwing in all sorts of arbitrary variables) and, therefore, invalidate the monitoring effort. The only real reason for the NMFS' attempt to lower the limit was as a sop to the purse seiners who were being cut back sharply. Fortunately, the scientific recommendation (reinforced by the arguments of sport fishermen and the Atlantic Professional Boatmans Association) carried the day, and the school tuna season will go on as before.

It should be pointed out that the 99 short tons allocated to the rod and reel school tuna fishery is a rather minimal figure. Though last year's estimated catch was only 93 tons, the figures for 1979 and 1980 were 132 and 122 short tons respectively. Furthermore, these figures are insignificant when compared with what the catches were before the seiners arrived in the '60s and destroyed a great fishery. According to a 1941 survey by Westman and Nevile the rod and reel catch in New York and New Jersey alone came to 1300 short tons! It was just as good after the war, as a 1948 survey of actual catch records of 43 charter boats in the same area revealed an average catch of 7.5 tuna per boat averaging 50 lbs. apiece. With the purse seiners not targeting on school bluefins in June this year, there could be better fishing—even though the population is in sad shape. The possibility exists that the school tuna quota could be filled and the season closed, but the data collection in this area is so difficult that I doubt there will be sufficient evidence to support a closure until the fall.

Now to giant tuna and some significant changes in the handgear regulations. During the hearings NMFS was talking about a one giant per boat per week limit, along with a July 15 opening date and unlimited catch and release fishing. Under pressure from the handliners, NMFS moved the opening of the handgear fishery back to June 1 and put the one per boat per week limit into effect only until August 14. On August 15 the old limit of one per day will apply everywhere unless the NMFS Regional Director determines and publishes a notice that this increase in the catch rate will result in a closure of the fishery before September 15.

The total catch permitted in the general category (which includes rod and reel) is 310 short tons, of which no more than 284 short tons may be taken before September 15. This is to

ensure that there will be at least some fish available for late fisheries, such as in the Mud Hole off the Jersey coast. Unfortunately, the "reserve" which was mentioned at the hearings was never intended as solely for use in areas south of Cape Cod—which is what the NMFS officials at the hearings seemed to think. During a recent conversation with Al Peterson, regional director of NMFS, Al assured me that this was a misunderstanding. There will be no territorial divisions this year, and the minimum 26 short tons which must be left for fishing after September 15 can be caught anywhere.

While the new giant tuna regs should work out well for the Block Island tuna fishery, they may prove to be a problem for both the USATT and the Mud Hole fisheries. If the one per day catch rate starting August 15 results in the 284 tons being taken rather quickly, the season could be closed sometime before September 15; perhaps before the USATT. Even though the reserve of 26 tons would permit reopening of the season on September 15, Mud Hole anglers would be competing with those in areas to the north for about 100 giants (if they're small)—and that number could be caught up in just a few days of good fishing. If the Mud Hole season were to be anything like the one in 1979, the fishery would be long closed before local boats even got a shot at the fish! Since September 15 is a Wednesday, it's likely that we'll get at least that first weekend out of it—but you'd better get yor charters arranged right now!

Also don't overlook the fact that catch and release fishing will be permitted at any time. If it's only a battle with the greatest game fish in the seas that interests you, then a season closure could be the best thing that could happen to you. With only a few boats on the grounds, there should be some wild fishing! As in the past, a permit is required for any giant tuna fishing. The old ones are still good, but if your boat isn't licensed, write for the free permit to Mr. Bill Jerome, NMFS, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, MA 01930.

From the standpoint of angling, that's all you have to know. However, the regulations also cover other fisheries which impact on the entire bluefin picture. While handliners will fish in the general category along with rod and reel fishermen, harpooners are being allowed to opt for a special harpoon category. The harpooners complained that they can only fish in calm weather and have to take as many as they can on the few days available to them. Though NMFS had talked about eliminating special categories (the charter boat category was dropped), they caved in and allocated 43 short tons to the harpooners which they can take as they please with no daily limit. Though this isn't a big figure, it could prove a bonanza to a few boats who will be able to produce numbers of fish early in the season while the other boats are limited to one per week. Only those boats opting for this category will be competing for the small quota. Other harpooners can still fish in the general category.

Almost one-third of the total quota is assigned to "incidental catch." Of this, 44 short tons goes to American swordfish longliners (who are restricted to two fish per trip in southern waters and 2% by weight of all fish aboard in the north)—and six tons to vessels fishing for species of fish other than tunas (primarily herring, mackerel, and bunker seiners). The biggest share goes to the tuna purse seiners who have systematically destroyed this fishery over the years by catching most of the young tuna before they ever reach maturity. Everyone but the purse seiners (including the Canadians and Japanese) is aware of the damage that the purse seine fishery has done, and knows there is no justification for it continuing under the present depressed stock condition. The government scientists found purse seining to be of no value in monitoring (since bluefins aggregate in schools on the surface, their spotter planes could literally lead the boats to big catches until there were virtually no bluefins left in

(Continued on next page.)

Much of the new regulations' effect on sport fishermen will depend on the quality of the fishing in different areas. Photo by Sal Terranova.

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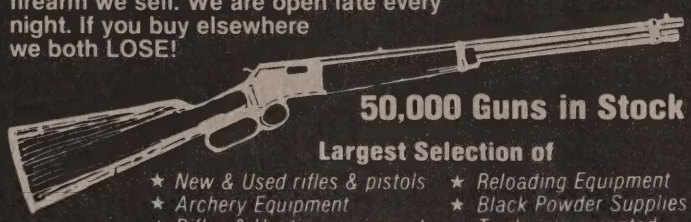
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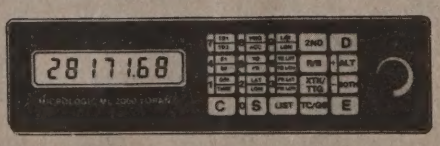
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the western Atlantic), and recommended only a small by-catch in the skipjack tuna fishery.

By the end of the State Department meeting, that by-catch was jacked up to 79 tons—and this spring it became 165 short tons! This is to be spread around the five boats involved (most owned by the same people) and is far beyond any reasonable by-catch. Indeed, the new regs permit the seiners to take in giant tuna any portion of the school tuna by-catch they don't use. Just as was the case last year, you can depend on the seiners to fill their nets with 1973 year class mini-giants off Block Island—the very spawning-size fish which are depending on to carry the fishery for us in future years!

Of course, NMFS points to the fact that the purse seiners were taking over 50% of the total catch prior to this year and will now be taking only about half of that percentage. However, the plain fact of the matter is that they shouldn't be taking **any** bluefin tuna other than a legitimate by-catch in the skipjack fishery. The **only** fishing permitted by the ICCAT agreement is for monitoring—and the scientists had no need for purse seining in this area. The only other legitimate catches are by-catches, but the seiners are being allowed a directed fishery for giants in violation of the letter and spirit of the ICCAT agreement. The only positive aspect of this arrangement will be the likely result that very little school bluefin by-catch will appear in the skipjack fishery—proving that the "by-catch" figures were phony to begin with. I see no reason why the purse seiners, who have made a fortune in this fishery over two decades, should be rewarded for the damage they did! Yet the government continues to treat them as special characters—though no such consideration was ever given to the charter and party boat skippers who had to "make do" after the purse seiners made it impossible to count on the traditional tuna fishery every summer.

While I'm not pleased with every portion of the new tuna regulations, the fact of the matter is that they're probably the best we can do under the circumstances. Regardless of the fact that it wasn't the rod and reel fishermen who created the present scarcity of bluefin tuna.

Everyone must do their part in bringing this great fish back. Conservation of the species should be our foremost concern, and even these imperfect regs are a lot better than what we've been living with in past years. However, the purse seiners and some handliners are hard at work in Washington trying to defeat the regs and go back to the old ones—which woud violate our international commitment and, possibly, put the nails in the bluefin's coffin. Write to the Secretary of Commerce and your Congressmen indicating approval of this conservation attempt. Don't let the greedy win another one!

JULY TOURNAMENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ATLANTIS ANGLERS FLUKE... AN INSHORE *GREAT SOUTH BAY* WEEKEND TOURNAMENT JULY 10-11... *CLUBS ONLY*... SMITH PT. BRIDGE TO ROCKAWAY INLET. FOR INFORMATION CALL MARK KAUFMAN (516) 798-3291 OR FUZZ WENGLER (516) 546-0965.

THE BABYLON TUNA CLUB'S 2 DAY 26TH ANNUAL TUNA-SHARK-BILLFISH TOURNEY...JULY 24-25... FROM BABYLON VILLAGE DOCK...PROCEEDS TO HELP RETARDED CHILDREN... *OPEN TO CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS*... FOR INFO CALL *CARL HUGGLER* (516) 666-3936.

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AMITY HARBOR CHOPPER ROUND UP...JULY 17, *ALT.* 18TH... WRITE TO BOX 14, AMITYVILLE, N.Y. 11701...OR CALL (516) 231-5787.

SOUTH JERSEY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT JULY 8-9-10 AND *CAPE MAY MARLIN* JULY 13-14-15, BOTH OUT OF SOUTH JERSEY FISHING CENTER, CAPE MAY, N.J. *PHONE* (609) 884-2400.

BAHR'S SHARK TOURNAMENT JULY 10-11 FROM NORTH JERSEY'S SHREWSBURY RIVER IN HIGHLANDS. CONTACT *MCCOY, BAHR'S LANDING*, 2 BAY AVE. HIGHLANDS, N.J. 07732.

RHODE ISLAND TUNA TOURNAMENT AND RODEO WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 15 TO SEPT. 30.

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BEST FISHING DAYS FOR JULY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW AND FULL* ARE JULY 1-6 AND JULY 20 - AUG. 4.

INLETS: Key To Surf Fluke

by Herb Buch

During the summer, fluke are often the only reliable source of action in our inlets. The surfman must depend on them if he wants some fish to bring home. Last year produced a large number of small fluke. The ones that were released carefully should please us with their increased size this year.

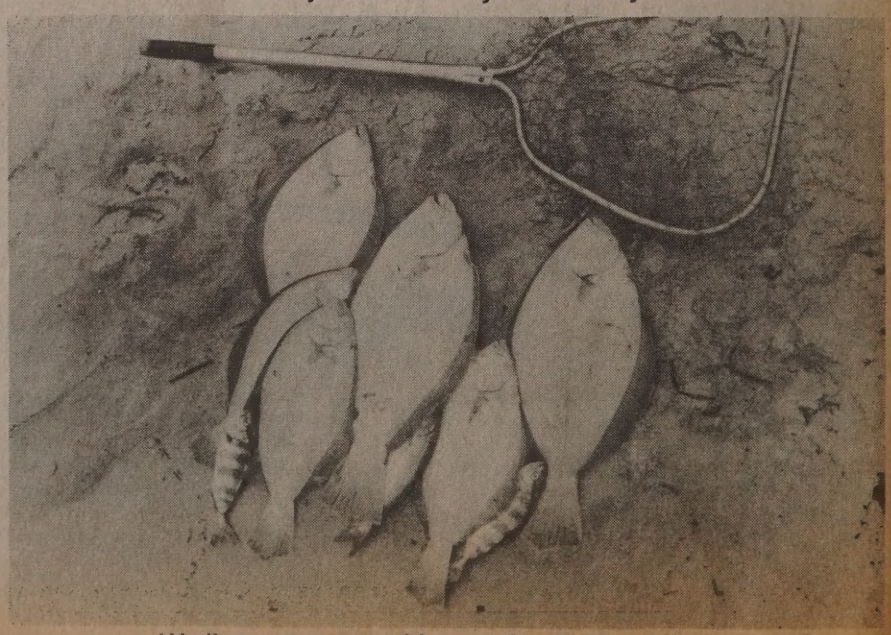
Fluke are not great fighters, but they are second only to flounder on the table. Most of us enjoy a meal of fresh fish and that accounts for a good deal of their popularity. The other attraction which they offer to the surfcaster is a result of their habit of feeding on live bait. Because of this proclivity, they will often hit lures. They have taken all kinds of lures for me, with the exception of surface plugs. It would not surprise me to hear of a fluke taking a small popper, as I have seen them break water after bait over inlet sand bars, and even clear the water in the chase.

There are two approaches to fluking in the inlets. The first and most productive is to bait fish. The second method is to use appropriate lures with or without the addition of bait in the hopes of picking up the makings of a meal when we are really out for bigger game. I very often combine the two approaches by fishing dawn with my favorite lures for game fish, but carrying some strip bait and a couple of rigs to use for fluke if there is no action earlier.

Inlet fishing for fluke is basically a caster's game. Although there are a few spots where fluke may be taken near shore, the good caster has a great advantage most of the time. Any surf outfit can be used for fluking, but the most productive technique involves constant casting and retrieving, and that makes a lighter outfit easier to handle. An 8' or 9' stick, mounting a medium sized reel full of 15 lb. test line will do a good job. Such a rig should cast a 2 oz. sinker as far as necessary, and 15 lb. test line will stand friction against rough bottom as well as pulling in large gobs of weed which are often present. If the water is clean and extra distance is important, 12 lb. test is ideal. Very rough conditions may require heavier line.

Your goal is to cast to any spot which might shelter a fluke, and then to work the bait back to where you stand. It is possible to just reel very

Inlet jetties are always worth a try.



Wading out on a sand bar produced this catch.

slowly and take fish, but I prefer to move the bait a foot or two at a time by lifting the rod tip, and then reeling in as I drop the tip. I believe that the period when the bait is still allows the fish a chance to examine the bait, and the sudden movement prompts them to grab it. In strong tidal flows you can cast upstream and let the current drift your bait until you get a hit, or it is up against the shore.

The simplest rig is a hook on a 2' to 3' leader attached to your line just above the sinker. I use the shorter leader most of the time because it tangles less during the cast and usually will take just as many fish when you are actively working the bait. If you're fishing a slack water area with live killies, then use the 3' leader and let the rig sit in a favorable spot. I always use small hooks, and leaders no heavier than 17 lb. test mono, because the bait acts more naturally when rigged in this way. Long shanked hooks are traditional for fluke, but when they are not biting well, a Sproat hook will get more hits and more fish. They have large mouths, but a large hook is not as efficient in catching them as a small one. Number two hooks should do a good job for the average situation.

Fluke usually grab the tail end of a bait. When you feel a take, or just a slight drag, as if you picked up some weed, stop moving the rig and wait awhile. If the fluke had your bait by the tail end, it will probably inhale it and if there is still a weight present when you lift your rod, set the hook with a short flip of the tip. Sometimes we don't give the fluke enough time, and by hitting gently we do not move the bait very far. Wait awhile and often the fluke will return and take the bait deep enough for you to hook it. Crabs and weeds simulate fluke bites at times, but they do not tug as you reel them in.

Once in a while a fluke takes the whole bait and moves off with it. These are the easy ones. At other times they will toy with a bait repeatedly until you wonder if you will ever get one on the hook. Their fight is very weak but they often develop astonishing energy when you lift them from the water. This frequently results in having them throw the hook. If you are on the beach just slide them up onto the sand. If you are working a sand bar a long way from shore, be sure to carry a landing net, unless you either want to walk them in or take your chances. Gaffing fluke is not easy unless you have the right hook and know how to use it.

Because of their feeding habits, fluke are usually found in the same places that you would find game fish. The presence of bait improves your chances. Although small fish seem to be a favorite with fluke, they also feed on shrimp, crabs, worms and other organisms. The best approach is to try a likely spot for them, and if it does not produce, try another one.

There are sand bars stretching out from the shore line in many inlets. Fluke like to lurk in the deeper water and wait for food to be washed over the edge. By wading out far enough to cast to moderately deep water, you may reach a feeding area. During summer days a pair of sneakers, and old pants are all that you need to wear. In the early morning, you might feel more comfortable with a pair of waders. Since it is often necessary to wade a long way out, many people carry a long shanked sand spike to which they have attached a few metal loops. When a good location is reached, the bait container can be tied to one ring, and a landing net to another, or just set the handle in the tube of the spike. You net your fish right where you are standing, string your fish and tie the string to the spike.

Jetties found on one or both sides of most inlets provide a convenient access to deeper water. The slack side of the tide rip formed at the end can, at times, be loaded with fish. This happens because bait that is carried by the current very often piles up in the slack water attracting the fish that are in the area. You should also work along the sides of the jetty, particularly if schools of bait are in evidence.

Wherever the channel cuts close to shore you have a likely area. The dropoff always seems to hold a few fluke, but not necessarily in the same section consistently. That is why you must be prepared to move around until you find a place that produces. Some days they seem to be widely scattered and by working along the channel you can make a nice catch. At other times they seem to be concentrated in one area, while large portions of the shore line are barren.

Sand bars that stretch out into the inlets can be hotspots for all kinds of fish but must be approached with caution, particularly on a flooding tide. Until you know an area well, do not wade out too far except when the tide is falling, and begin your retreat as the tide begins to rise.

Lure fishing for fluke can be a lot of fun. I don't believe that it is as productive as bait fishing, but there is one way to make it just about as good. That method involves using a strip of bait on the hook of a small bucktail jig. A thin strip of squid or fluke belly is hooked once at the end, as you would use a piece of pork rind. This lure is cast out, allowed to sink to the bottom, and then retrieved in short hops. Fluke usually inhale the whole thing, and so do weaks, blues, sea robins, toad fish and others. Hopkins, diamonds, and other metal jigs in the 1/2 to 1 oz. size range will take fluke without the addition of bait if they are reeled slowly along the bottom. They are not usually as effective as the baited bucktails.

Fluke fishing the inlets is a game for someone who likes to hunt for action. I love it because the fluke are usually around all summer, and the methods used will also help me to make contact with any game fish that are around.

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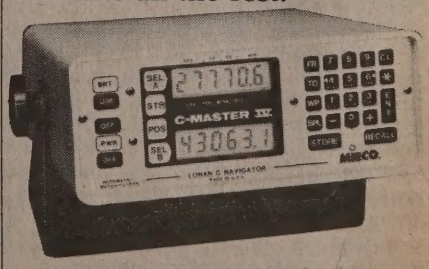

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SMALL BOAT SHARKING

Part One — *by Al Ristori*

What do you need to go sharking from a small boat? Not very much as compared to other offshore fishing. A roll of #12 wire, a selection of Mustad double-strength hooks (9/0 is a good size), and some flotation material forms the basics. I use a Bimini twist in my mono and tie that to a big game snap swivel. About 12' of wire is sufficient for sharking, and the hook should be attached with a haywire twist. When the line is set to the depth at which you want it, a balloon or piece of styrofoam can be used to hold it there. I use thin rubber bands for this purpose, though some sharkkers just wrap the line around the styrofoam. If the drift is fast you'll need some small sinkers to hold the baits down. These can be added to the leader loop by means of a rubber band—or be taped right to the leader.

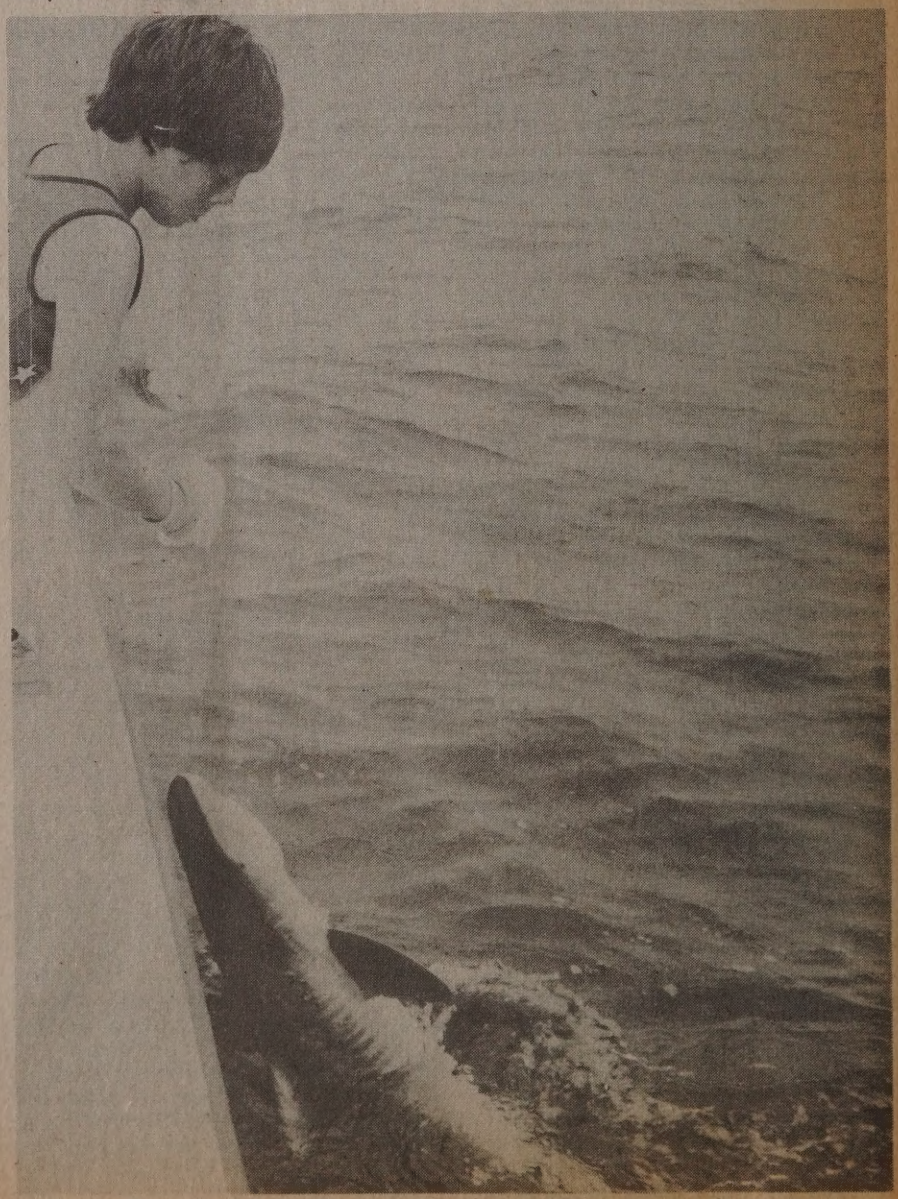
If there are small blue sharks around the boat, go to shorter leaders on light tackle and use any old rusty hooks you want to get rid of. After all, the hook is going to remain with the fish after you release him—and it will rust away just that much faster.

Everyone has his own favorite when it comes to bait. When I first started shark fishing in the 60s everyone seemed to favor rigged baits which were as fancy as those served to tuna and marlin. Many sharkers still rig bunkers, mackerel, and bluefish in such fashion, but my natural laziness soon led me to adopt fillets as my favorites when I started sharking on my own. Not only are fillets easy to use, but I've found that relatively few fish are lost when they hit such baits. With large baits there's always the possibility of the hook doubling back into the bait and failing to penetrate in the shark's mouth. Furthermore, there's no need for a long dropback with the fillets. That's not only good for hooking, but it means that your mouth-hooked sharks will survive when released much better than those which are gut-hooked.

Bunker are usually the cheapest and most convenient bait to obtain, so that's what I use for filleting material. However, mackerel is just as good—and a fresh fillet of anything in the tuna family can't be beat. I hook the fillets back to back on the hook and rarely get bite-offs from sharks, though bluefish and squid can be a problem at times. It's also often possible to get live bait on the spot by bottom fishing. A live whiting or ling hooked lightly in back of the head is hard to beat. Live squid should be great, though I haven't had much luck with them. As a matter of fact, all of my makos over 200 lbs. have been caught on those simple bunker fillets.

A good chum slick is essential to successful sharking. Surprisingly, you don't need a lot of chum for sharks. I chum by hand and use only one can in a 5-6 hour day. If you put the frozen chum in a bag and let it trail alongside, then you'll need two cans for a day—particularly when the water warms up in the summer. When chumming by hand, water it down well as it's only the scent that's important. What you want is a good continous slick. Sharks have an excellent sense of smell and will pick up the scent from a considerable distance. Chunking into the slick can be helpful if it's not overdone. Too many chunks and the sharks may just lay back in the slick and eat the freebies. In fact, it's always a good idea to finish all chumming about 15 minutes before actually leaving. Frequently there's a real burst of action at that point.

If you are going to chum by hand, don't forget the ladle! I'd hate to tell you how many times I've done that myself. You can use the same bunker you have for bait as chunking material, or bring out bait that's too rotten to use for any other purpose. I've never seen makos or any other sharks turn up their noses at baits just because they weren't fresh. I particularly remember one day when I was



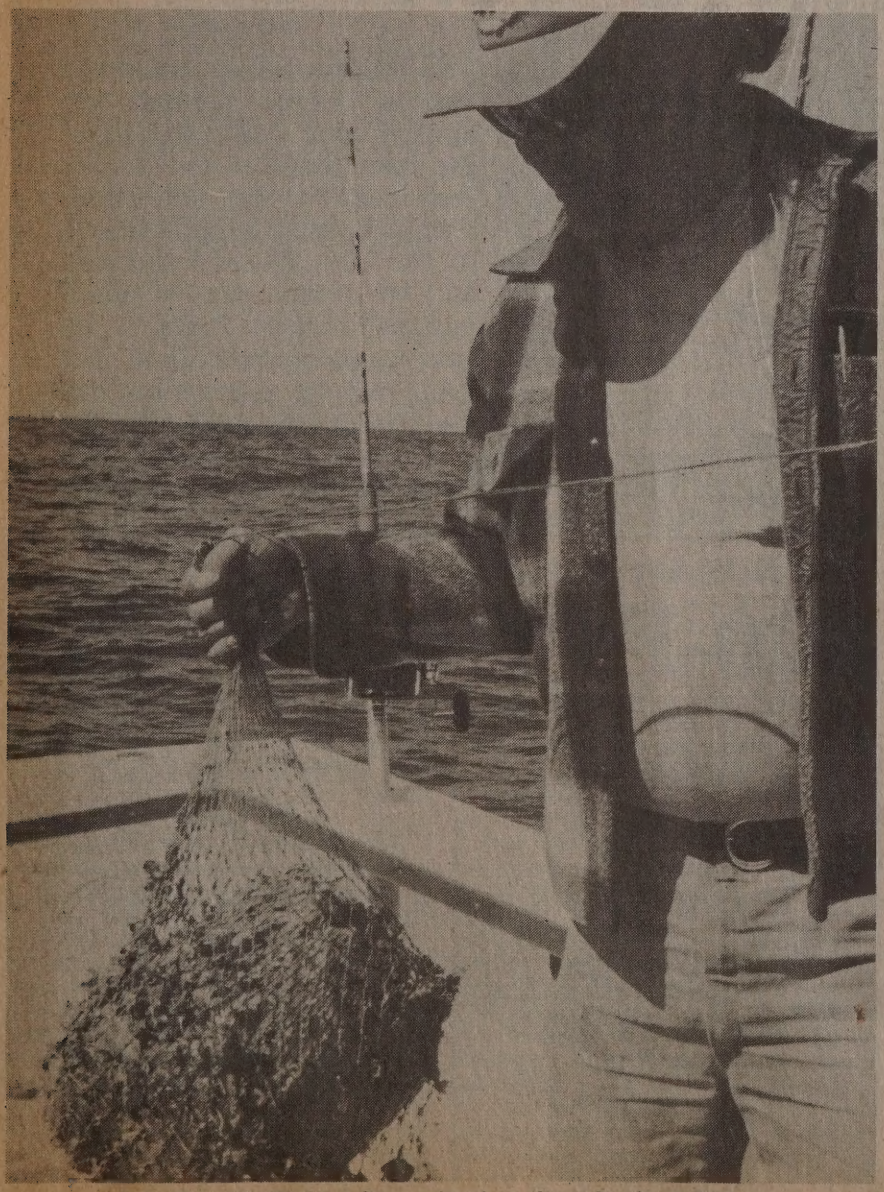
Bobby Correll, of Belle Terre, wiring a small tiger from author's Mako.

chumming with the rottenest of old bunker. I caught a 240 lb. mako that day and when I cut open its stomach found that same freshly swallowed stinking bunker which was too far gone to even keep on a hook.

The precise setup of the rods on your boat is a matter of personal preference—the only important factor being that they don't tangle. I fish three rods: one deep, one at medium depth, and the closest one just out of sight. Always be alert to any movement of the float, as sharks frequently pick up the outermost bait and continue toward the boat—eating the other baits as they come. The result is usually a big mess. When a shark is hooked it's often possible to keep the other lines fishing, though they may have to be moved around as the shark tows the boat. Where there's one shark there's often more, so its advisable to keep the other lines in the water if at all possible. The angler can walk around the boat with his shark and try to keep it away from the other lines.

The drift is usually too fast to allow the click alone to hold the baits in place, so I apply just enough drag to prevent line from being taken by the waves. That's no problem with lever drag reels, but with star drags it means that you've got to increase the drag setting before striking the fish without knowing just how much drag you're applying. As previously noted, I use a short dropback with the fillets. With a bigger bait allow more time, but in either case remember to reel the line taut before striking. Sharks will frequently be moving toward you and if you don't tighten the line you may only spook them with an ineffective strike.

You should have a rod belt for each rod used. It's not unusual to hook up on every rod, and most people have a hard time fighting big fish without a rod belt—particularly if your rods have metal gimbals. It's also a good idea to have at least one shoulder harness in case a very big shark is encountered. After they get the first run out of their system, pour on the pressure and overpower your shark. However, I don't advise bringing large "green" sharks to boatside of small craft. If you have a big mako, tiger, etc., fight him out so he's easy to handle alongside.



Lou Rosado displays frozen bunker chum in chum bag.

Finally we come to the capture or release. This is the one portion of small boat shark fishing which is significantly more dangerous than the same sport from larger craft. Bigger boats can take their chances with "green" fish, but you'll have to exercise caution. You definitely don't want to hit a mako with a gaff and have him jump in the boat with you! Unless you have a use for them, all sharks should be released. Bringing a bunch of blue or brown sharks back to the dock to smell up the area before being towed back out to sea just marks you as an amateur.

Makos and threshers are excellent eating fish at any size, and while other sharks are also edible the smaller specimens are usually considered to be the best. If you're interested in a set of teeth, also check out what you've caught before killing it. Even small makos have impressive teeth, but you'll have to catch a huge blue shark or hammerhead in order to get a decent jaw. The National Marine Fisheries Service has been studying sharks for a couple of decades and most of the tagging work upon which they've gained their knowledge has come from sportsmen who participate in the tagging program. If you'd like to get the free tags, drop a line to Jack Casey, Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Narragansett, RI 02882. Only apply for the tags if you really intend to use them.

Tagging a shark and cutting the wire is simple. Capturing one on a small boat is something else. Some sharkers use a noose which is slipped over the leader and led to the shark's tail. I prefer a flying gaff, with an 8' straight tuna gaff as a back-up. The flying gaff is safer to use as sharks tend to twist when hit and can take a straight gaff out of your hands. The question of whether to use firearms is up to the individual (the IGFA prohibits such use on fish submitted for record consideration), but I prefer not to have them on my boat.

As soon as the shark is subdued, get a rope around the tail and hang him next to the boat. The shark's internal organs aren't supported and they'll eventually expire in that fashion. When you get ready to leave, tow the shark backwards for awhile to make sure it's dead. If you're not sure, pull the tail and most of the body aboard (that's not as easy as it sounds since you're pulling against the grain) and let the head hang over the stern. In that fashion you'll be able to run normally and not have to worry about the shark coming back to life.

Small boat sharking is a lot of fun and a fairly consistent producer of the poor man's big game fish. Wait until the fish come within your range, exercise a lot of caution—and have a ball!

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

by Matt Ahern

I hardly know where to begin. I suppose, though, it is best to spend a minute or two explaining the photo that accompanies this story, for I'm sure that without it what follows would read like so much mush. If ever a story was dependent upon a photograph, this is the one.

That photo was taken on the stern of Canarsie's old Rose R II, and I was aboard that day. It was Thanksgiving time, 1928—either the day before the holiday, or the day after; I'm not sure which. But it was a weekday, for I was home from school. I'm certain of this because I seldom went codfishing on weekends due to the crowded conditions whenever fishing was good (and codfishing was always good those days). I was 14-years-old.

As is readily apparent, the photo is posed. The rod Babe Ruth is holding belonged to one of the passengers (note the sidewinder reel), the one Lou Gehrig holds is my converted hickory pool cue codfishing stick, complete with its heavy brass reel. The rod I no longer have, but the reel is still in my possession. I wouldn't part with it for the world.

That double-header Babe is lifting were two of the half-dozen or so 8 to 19 lbers. I caught that day. The two cod Lou is lifting (or attempting to lift) also belonged to a passenger. Not that Babe and Lou didn't catch cod that day; they certainly did. Their fish, however, had already been given to the crew when a decision was made to add this picture plus several more to the dozens of other publicity photos taken throughout the day. It was taken in Jamaica Bay, and I'll tell you how in a minute.

Now back to that photo. How I got it is a story by itself.

Many years ago I was a custodian in the Nassau County school system. Occasionally during summer extra help was hired to aid in the million and one jobs that were necessary in order to get the schools ready for the coming year. It was through one of these temporary employees that I received that photo.

One morning during a coffee break I was talking with one of these summer-help fellows, who also happened to be a fisherman. I mentioned that long-ago trip with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. He immediately told me that his brother-in-law, a professional house-wrecker, had razed an old residence in Queens and had found several books on the life of Babe Ruth. One of these books contained a photo of Ruth and Gehrig holding codfish on the stern of an old party boat. If I wanted that photo, it was

mine.

I just knew, just knew, mind you, that that photo was one of the dozens taken on the day this story is about. Actually, I hadn't thought about those photos in years, but that trip has always remained as fresh in my mind as the day it happened. Anyway, a week later I had the photo you see. And I wouldn't part with that, either.

And that's how the photo came into my possession.

Not to change the subject, but I can be pretty stupid at times. I say this because several Sundays ago I was straining my brain to come up with a suitable subject for an "Old Time" article. Nothing. I gave it up and decided that on this particular Sunday afternoon I would put all my thoughts into neutral and watch TV for a change, which is something I don't do often.

I checked the newspaper for a good movie and came up with a dandy: Gary Cooper as Lou Gehrig in "The Pride of the Yankees." Now, I'm not a baseball fan, but I know the game and also recognize a good movie when I see one. I'd seen this picture years ago and to me such an excellent movie is always worth another look.

Well, I relaxed in my easy chair and watched Gary Cooper become Lou Gehrig, and a darned fine job he did. Part way through the movie came a surprise. Lo and behold, Babe Ruth made a brief appearance. I'd completely forgotten Babe was in that movie. It was then when the thought struck me. Matt, old boy, you wanted a subject for an old time article, now you got it. At the movie's conclusion, I went to my den and searched through my box of fishing keepsakes and finally located that photo. And I breathed a sigh of relief, for as I say, without that photo the story of my fishing day with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig wouldn't be worth the effort.

And here is that story. I hope you enjoy the telling as much as I enjoy the reliving. Truly, it was a day to remember.

Back in November, 1928 I was but

(Continued on next page.)

14-years-old, as I said. A kid perhaps, but even then a codfishing fanatic—just as I am today. I remember I had gotten aboard the Rose R II very early that morning. But actually this was not unusual for me, for even as a kid I was always an early bird; I would have spent the night onboard if my parents had allowed it. I had placed my gear on the port side about midships, because no matter how early I showed up, there were always fishermen in the stern. (I think **they** spent the night onboard.) Moored alongside us at the Canarsie dock were the Tambo II, Pioneer II, and one other boat whose name for the life of me I cannot recall.

Anyway, while sitting near the bow, propped against the lifeboat (yes, the Rose R carried a lifeboat) and chatting with an old-timer, I suddenly heard much shouting and confusion. "Hey!" someone yelled. "Ain't that Ruth?" "Hey, Ruth!" called another. "That's Ruth, all right! Hey, Ruth!"

Well, having my back to the bow as I say, I couldn't see Ruth, but I figured she must be a pretty popular girl to cause all that confusion. But when I heard someone shout "That's Gehrig with him!" I thought I'd better check out what's going on.

And sure enough, there was Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. Both were walking toward the dock and both seemed undecided on which boat to go aboard. With them were two men. One of these men was weighted down with a heavy press camera and assorted gear; his companion carried a valise. Babe and Lou had no tackle and for the moment, I couldn't make head nor tail of it.

No roulette ball ever held as much fascination as did Ruth and Gehrig as they walked first to one boat and then followed the stringpiece to another. Shouts from the mates hawking their attention were loud and clear: "Over here, fellers! On the Rose R! Plenty codfish! On the Tambo! Step aboard! Plenty codfish on the Pioneer!" Etc.

When one visits a strange locality, the tendency is to walk to the right, and the Rose R II was the farthest right along the dock. Ruth and Gehrig approached us and came to a halt. They hesitated for a second and then gave us the once-over. Babe said something to Lou. Lou shrugged his shoulders, and with that, they stepped aboard, followed by the other two men.

Well, I guess you know what happened then. Many of the Tambo and Pioneer's passengers left those boats and attempted to get on board the Rose R, but Dick Perrson, the skipper, would have none of it. It wasn't fair, he said, that those other skippers should lose passengers because of what happened, and Dick refused to let them board. And so we sailed that morning with about a dozen fishermen instead of at least twice that many.

You and I know there isn't a kid in the world who doesn't have a hero of one kind or another. In 1928 we kids had three: Babe Ruth, the Sultan of Swat; Lou Gehrig, the Iron Man; and Jack Dempsey, the Manassa Mauler. Most kids would have given their eyeteeth for just a peek at one of these world famous men, and here I was in a position which would allow me to spend an entire day with two of them. How lucky could a boy get?

Naturally, on the way out all the passengers gathered about Babe and Lou—all except me, that is. I was so small, no one saw me. Finally, everyone moved to the stern where it was more convenient for autographs, small talk, and picture-taking. This enabled me to get closer. It was Babe Ruth who noticed me first.

"Hey! We got a kid on board. C'mere, kid. Where do you tend bar?" When I didn't reply, he asked "What's your name, son?"

I told him.

"An Irishman, eh? Not one of those wild Irishmen, are you?"

I stood there, mute.

"C'mon, Babe, " Lou Gehrig said, "cut it out. You're scaring the kid."

"Am I scaring you, Matty?"

"No, sir."

He removed my cap and tousled my hair. "I'll see you later, kid." And with that he went back to his conversation with the men passengers.

Well, all the way out to the offshore Sea Bright grounds, I hung around in the background, taking kid-like peeks at the two of them.

Anyway, about an hour before reaching the grounds, the mate came by with rental rods and handed one to Babe and one to Lou. It was then I noticed that the two members of their party, the photographer and the man with the valise, were relegated to stand by and watch the activity. I don't know if these fellows were fishermen or not, but I doubt it. They didn't seem a bit upset. Actually, I don't think they wanted to fish, anyway.

Now we arrive at that part of the day I can never forget.

For some unknown reason, both Babe and Lou decided to fish with me at midships—Gehrig on my right, and Ruth on my left. I will never forget that experience if I live to be a thousand. What got me was the fact that they could have fished anywhere on the boat, and I know those stern fishermen would have gladly shared their places at the rail just for the opportunity to fish near them.

I was too timid to begin a conversation and I guess this was noticeable, for Lou encouraged me by saying: "I hear you're a good fisherman. Is that right?"

Just as I was about to reply, the mate passed by with the skimmer pans and said: "He sure is, Mr. Gehrig. Matty, tell him about the pool you won last summer with that big fluke "

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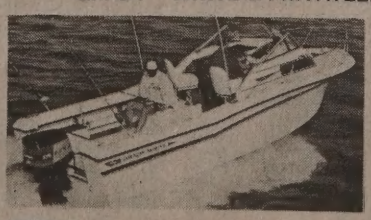

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Well, that broke the ice and I was off like a shot. I was on home ground. And I rambled on and on; and I can ramble, believe me. But while I was listening and talking, I was learning something from them.

This was not their first fishing trip, as I had supposed. Both had gone codfishing about the same time the year before (the one in which Babe hit his 60 homers). On that trip they had fished out of Sheepshead Bay on Gus Rau's old R C Lundy.

Of the two, I think Lou was the more experienced fisherman; at least this is the impression I got at the time. I believe, too, that he got a bigger kick out of fishing. This is not to say that Babe didn't enjoy himself. I watched him go through the same heart-thumping we all do when a cod is on the hook. Of course, this was only my observation at the time, so I hope no one will hold it against me.

Well, we began fishing, and then my troubles started. The photographer kept interfering every time Lou or Babe brought up a cod. I had to move out of the way so pictures could be taken. Then, whenever a gaff was about ready to impale a cod, everything had to stop for an "action" shot. Then Lou or Babe posed for photos showing them gaffing each other's fish, and so on. But all in all, it was a good fishing day.

I remember with fondness how Babe kept filling me up with sodas. "Hey, captain, give the kid all the soda he wants. I'll settle with you later." And I was some soda-hound at the time. To my young eyes, ten cents for a bottle of soda was a lot of money and I figured Babe would go broke paying for it; but I was willing to drink it if he was willing to pay for it.

The day ended all too quickly for me. I was saddened, for I knew I'd never again see these two great, kindly men in person. Everyone else was quite happy, though; especially Babe and Lou, for they had caught at least a dozen nice cod between them.

Just as we entered Rockaway Inlet, the photographer decided he should get a few more pictures. So everyone gathered on the stern and that was when that photo you see was made. However, most of the fish had already been cleaned and the rental tackle put away, therefore, any available rod was used, as were the available fish. That's how those two cod and my rod got into the picture.

There is one more photo made that day that I would surely give my eyeteeth to possess. It shows Babe, Lou, and I kneeling on the stern, Babe and Lou on each side of me with their arms draped over my shoulders, and those four cod spread out before us—and the inevitable soda bottle in my right hand. Yes, sir, I would give a lot for that one. Well—I was lucky once; maybe I'll be lucky again.

So. There's the story of the day I fished with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, an event that occurred long ago in late November, 1928.

Truly, it was a day to remember.

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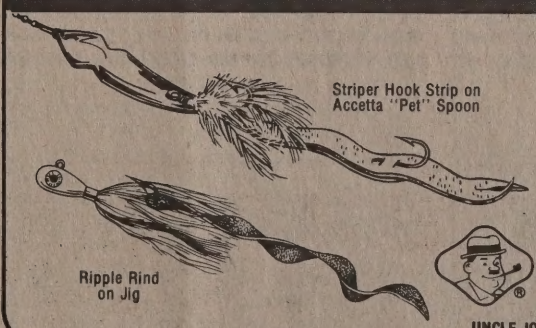

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— LONG ISLAND SOUND — LIGHT TACKLE CASTING

by Barry Zerder

When casting along Long Island's North Shore, I find ultra-light tackle the most rewarding choice. The miniature rod and pocket sized reel provide fabulous enjoyment as well as prime catches of various fish. At first glance, the method appears to be foolish along the shores of the Sound, but in reality it's not. Surely there are occasions when light lines will be abraded and broken, small reels will be stripped and rough water conditions will impede light tackle use; but these are exceptions rather than the rules. Last year a friend and I arrived at Centre Island Beach where about 15 surfcasters were already throwing everything they had at the bass. After a half hour of ultra-lighting, three schoolies were flapping on the beach, glistening in the last remaining sunlight. The other fishermen still had not taken a fish.

This relatively new method is one of the most exciting, challenging, and most of all, effective ways to fish the North Shore of Long Island. The feeling of accomplishment when beaching your first ultra-light striped bass can't be beat. Any small schoolie will provide several sizzling runs of fury. Bluefish are unmatched in their fighting ability on this tackle, and even small snapper blues can rip drag off the reel. Beside challenge and excitement, its effectiveness is a more important reason to use it. The light stick allows the use of light test lines, which is the key to presenting lures naturally. Poppers, plugs, and tins appear to be swimming detached from the master fisherman's clutches. Shrimp jigs and bucktails seem to dart around the bottom as helpless prey. This is because the line has a small diameter. The most wary fish won't hesitate to grab a well-presented lure when the light test monofilament is invisible. The fine line is also less affected by currents and wind, allowing for a more delicate presentation. As a result, there are often more fish on the stringer for the ultra-light fisherman than anyone else. Light line also reduces friction when casting, and small lures can be cast greater distances. Also, the limberness of an ultra-light rod allows the angler to work a lure with its utmost attraction. These specific controls give a fisherman the best advantages.

The true ultra-light rod is not what most people think. The tiny rod must bend evenly throughout its length, including along the cork reel seat and down to the butt. Any respectable reel which matches such a rod will be satisfactory, but keep the following in mind. Since most ultra-light reels were designed with freshwater fishing in mind, spool capacities are generally limited. Most freshwater fish are smaller and not as powerful as those found on North Shore beaches. Stripers, blues and weaks require a reel with the largest capacity spool you can find, as any decent sized fish will strip a small spool rapidly.

The ultra-light rig is designed for use with 1-6 lb. test line. My usual link to the quarry is 6 lb. test, since line abrasion will weaken it substantially. When fishing for stripers in rocky areas, an effective slow retrieve near the bottom will surely cause line wear. You might ask why use ultra-light at all if 6 lb. test line may be cast from a heavier spinning outfit. After all, the fish don't care about your rod and reel. The answer is not at first obvious. A properly set drag system will allow line to be stripped at approximately half of its breaking strength. This should occur when the rod has a strong bend in it. The bend acts as a cushion to keep tension on the fish no matter what direction it speeds in. For example, if a fish strips out line against a stiff spinning rod at a drag setting of 3 lbs., the rod will assume a very slight curve. If the fish suddenly changes direction and heads toward you (such as what commonly happens with bass, blues, and weaks), slack line will be gained and likely a lost fish as well. Remember, the key to ultra-light spinning is the light line employed. The tiny outfit is merely the most efficient and effective way to use this line. I generally use 6 lb. test blue Stren because it's limp and glows in sunlight. However, there are many other good quality lines on the market. It's extremely important to fill the reel spool properly. Line must be wound on tightly and with minimum twist. By pinching the line with one hand and reeling it on with the other, it's easy to fill the spool with densely packed line. Fill the spool as much as possible without allowing the line to spring off by itself. This is generally about 1/8" from the spool rim, or more if you're using poor quality stiff line. This will reduce friction when casting and allow the longest casts possible.

The ultra-light outfit and light test lines require constant maintenance. Wash the rod and reel thoroughly with warm water after each trip, and check the line for wear. Don't hesitate to change the line if it feels worn. The

A dropping tide discloses this reef as a potentially productive spot.

guide tip is an often overlooked part of the rod. The small diameter lines will wear grooves here in a surprisingly short time, so change this guide as needed.

To effectively plug a North Shore beach, the angler must obviously fish where fish congregate. To find the general vicinity, simply read the reports or talk to your fishing buddies, but this by itself is not enough. For example, you may hear of schoolie bass along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway, the shores of Port Jefferson Harbor, or at Centre Island. This tells you nothing about where to fish once you arrive at these places. In order to locate specific areas, the fisherman can explore the profile of the terrain at low tide. Sandbars, dropoffs, deep holes, and rocky grounds will hold stripers when the tide floods.

Several beach conditions can make or break a fishing trip. Winds, tides, and water clarity have profound effects on fish behavior. A southerly or westerly breeze seems to yield the best action. The offshore south wind can aid in casting and will not roil the water. In clear water the probability of a fish seeing the plug increases, resulting in more strikes. Brisk northerly winds cloud the water and push seaweed into the beach. We all know it's impossible to plug a beach when the lure continually returns layered with botanical blessings. Very productive catches are common with calm winds, but don't forget the bug repellent. A high flooding tide produces more fish for me than any other, but there are times when the blitz occurs at dead low tide. Success simply requires fishing time, since the amount of plugging hours is proportional to your catch. By plugging at dawn and dusk, the probability of putting away many fish increases, since these are feeding times. The idea that full moons produce good action certainly has validity. It's not a magical entity by any means, but a full moon influences tides, making them better for feeding. The excess light at dusk also reflects off lures, and they become conspicuous to the game.

There are two general plugging methods which are useful. Residential type fish such as striped bass patrol specific feeding grounds such as the end of a jetty or a rocky reef in search of food. When in pursuit of this game fish, fancasting over the spot can be deadly. This is accomplished by casting radially outward from a point on the periphery of the area. By plugging in this manner the angler can cover the individual feeding ground thoroughly. When pursuing more active species which sweep along the beach quickly, simply plugging while walking along the beach is more effective. This allows more ground to be covered in the same amount of time and increases your chances to plug around schools of baitfish. Blues and weaks will chase baitfish such as sand eels toward and away from the beach in various places. If the desired spot doesn't produce after a good work over, try another. Patience usually will be rewarding, but the perseverance required is liable to discourage the best of fishermen.

When in pursuit of blues, keep an eye out for schools of bunker. If a school should be chased by hungry blues, cast a popper into the turmoil and work it quickly. In an instant a blue will be on your light outfit fighting savagely. Keep in mind that most North Shore bluefish following bunker schools weigh over a dozen pounds, and may require more than an hour to land. In this sense ultra-light tackle seems foolish to use, but again there is nothing like that feeling of accomplishment.

Once a fish is hooked, the next challenge is landing it. Little can be done while the fish makes its first few runs. Adding drag to the spool rim with your forefinger is the remedy for rapidly disappearing line. Never attempt to tighten the drag knob! On the contrary, if the fish has stripped off a lot of line, it's helpful to loosen the drag very slightly. The fish is now pulling against the original drag setting plus the friction of the water along the entire line's length. If the drag isn't reduced to allow for this friction, the fish will be lost. When the whizzing fish comes to a halt, pump and reel slowly. Take all the time needed to work the fish in. As the quarry approaches the shallows it's time to slowly guide it to the beach. Walking the fish up and down along the shallows is a smart way to gradually beach it. Then carefully slide your catch onto the sand and grab it. If you're wading, you must walk slowly back to the beach before the fish comes near. Then proceed as before. If for any reason you can't walk the fish to the beach, perhaps because of unstable footing, a net or gaff may be used. I try to stay away from this practice when using ultra-light equipment, because any large fish will have enough zip left in it to evade the landing device. The key to successful landing is taking all of the time necessary.

This past September I plugged the eastern shore of Port Jefferson Harbor. Large snappers were the ticket as I employed my usual walk and cast method. The three month old blues were a hefty 10" to 12". I always cherish the exciting buzzes of drag that snappers peel off the reel. Big time fishermen ridicule snapper fishing by saying it's a youngster's sport. These guys have never used ultralight tackle. I'm happy to see that the popularity of light tackle has grown rapidly in the past decade, especially in recent years. Surf fishermen are more interested in the sport and science of fishing as opposed to putting meat on the table. If you fit into this category, try ultra-light plugging this summer. Not only will you enjoy wild fun, but you'll see why light tackle is the most effective way to plug North Shore beaches.

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LONG ISLAND'S SUMMER GUEST

by William Stamatis

I dropped the baited hook over the transom of my aluminum skiff and immediately felt the distinct staccato tugs of a porgy. As I lifted my rod tip I realized that I had already lost my bait.

Porgies are among the best bait stealers in the sea and yet are among the most welcome guests in Long Island waters from June through October. Porgies are a most obliging fish and can be caught with almost any kind of tackle as long as it can support a heavy enough sinker to get the bait to the bottom.

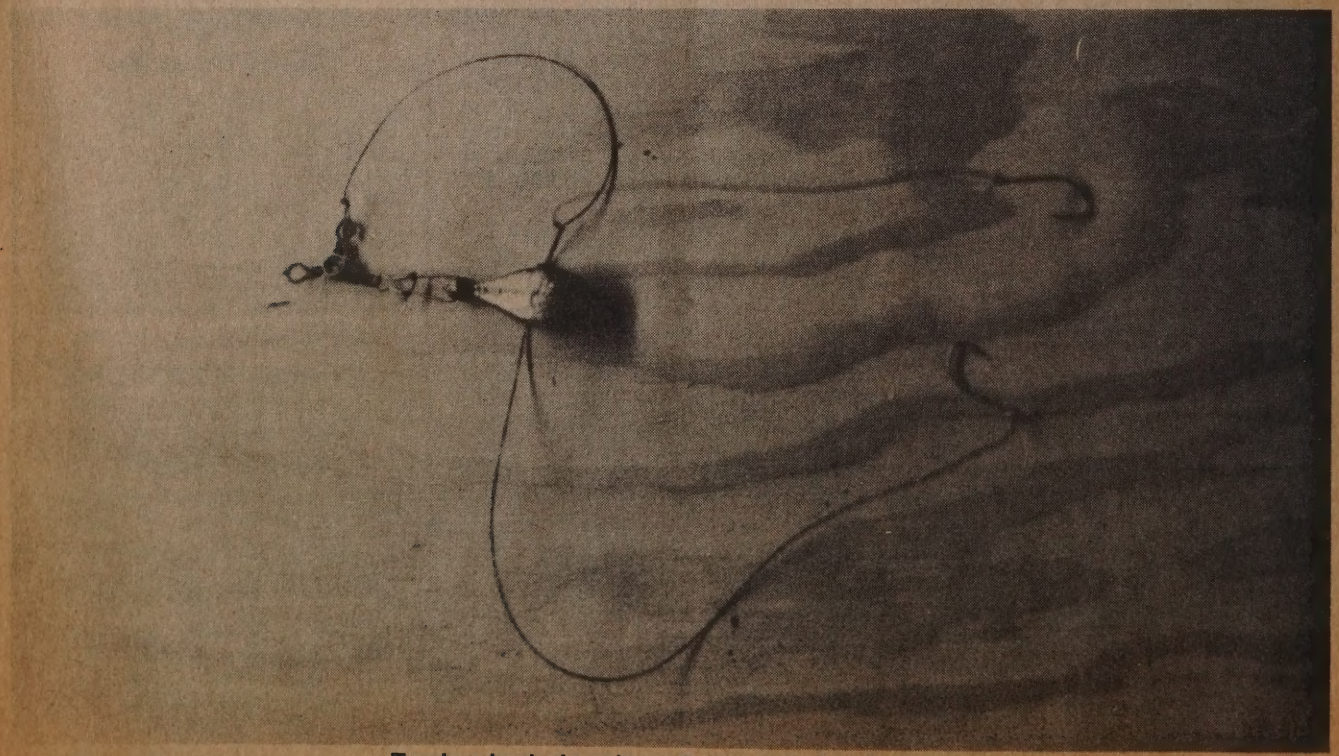
Bait presentation, then, is vital if you want to be a successful porgy fisherman. If you fish in shallow bays without too much current, you can use a rod and reel combination that will support 1-3 oz. sinkers without strain. If you fish where the water is often deep and there are strong currents, then you must use a rod and reel combination that won't be strained by 4-6 oz. sinkers.

Once you get down down to where the fish feed, you must consider the size hook that will catch porgies. There's an adage that says, "small hooks will catch big fish, but big hooks won't catch small fish." Therefore, when fishing for porgies, I use a #4, preferring beak or claw style hooks. It's not necessary to go any larger. You'll catch fish with #2 or #1 hooks, but you'll catch more fish with #4s. Whether the hook is gold or silver, or has bait saver barbs is unimportant, but size is.

I will relate two incidents that occurred just east of Mattituck Inlet on Long Island Sound. One day, during a week when there seemed to be a school of weakfish in the area, my brother-in-law and I were steadily filling a cooler with some nice size porgies. Suddenly there was a lull in the action and as I began to reel in for a bait check, my rod arched over and line streamed off the reel as the drag yielded to the pressure of a heavy fish. My heart pounded as I played the fish and tried to turn it in the current. As the fish succumbed to the pressure of the rod, a fear struck me. Would the hook be strong enough to hold what was obviously a good size fish? When I netted a 9 lb. weakfish, I realized that "small hooks can catch big fish!"

Another time, while fishing with some friends, I was catching porgy after porgy. Each time I lowered my bait to the bottom I would catch another fish. My friends were not doing as well. I'm not saying they didn't catch fish; I'm saying that I caught two to three fish to every one they caught. Well, it takes a certain amount of tact to suggest to some one that they try something else, especially when they're seething with frustration. Fortunately, one fellow snagged his rig and had to break off. This allowed me to suggest he use some of my hooks. Pretty soon we were both catching fish every time we baited up. It didn't take long after that for the other guy to trade his #2 hooks for #4s. We filled the cooler before lunch.

Since porgies are so obliging, and since they are so adept at stealing bait, it is prudent to lower two hooks into their feeding zone. One of the best ways to do this is to tie a tandem rig. This is done by tying the end loop of the leader of one hook to the center of the leader of the other hook. Attach this tandem hook rig to a dropper loop 2" to 3" above your sinker. Or, if you prefer, attach the tandem hook rig to one loop of a #1 three way swivel. Attach the sinker with a snap to the other loop and tie the line to the third



Tandem hook rig using a 3-way swivel and snap.

loop of the swivel. Either way you are presenting two baits to the fish, giving you an opportunity to catch a double header.

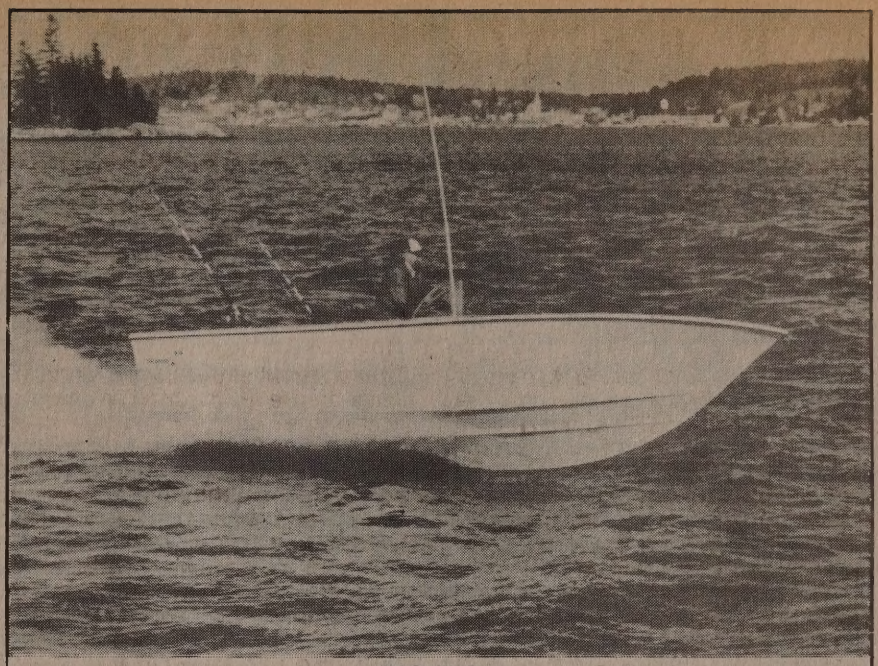
Bait is your next consideration. Sandworms, bloodworms, and clams are the most often used baits. Some fishermen buy a flat of worms for a day of porgy fishing. Others buy skimmer clams by the bushel. It's wise, however, to bring some of each. I prefer clams, so I buy mostly clams. Make sure they're fresh. Open clams are usually dead clams. After you buy your bait cut it into small pieces. Remember porgies have small mouths so thread the cut bait up the hook and leave some of the point on the hook exposed. This will give you a head start when you try to hook these cunning fish.

If I can get it, I always use chum to attract and keep the fish near the boat. Chum is often ground up fish and/or clams that is usually frozen in quart containers. The frozen contents are then removed from the container and placed into a chum pot that is lowered to the bottom beneath the boat. As the chum defrosts underwater, the fish oils and small chunks of flesh drift out into the current. Fish "smell" this and come to investigate this potential feast. Mixed in with this chum are your baited hooks. Always use chum! It works!

If you can't get chum, or you run out, there is another trick you can use to hold the fish under the boat. I call this method "tandem fishing." When fishing with a buddy wait until you both have a fish hooked. Then and only then, does one person reel up, while the other keeps his hooked fish down on the bottom. When the first fisherman lowers his rebaited hooks to the bottom again, the second fisherman waits until they both have fish on. Then and only then does the second fisherman reel in his fish. The logic, if there is such a thing when fishing, is that porgies are school fish and that school fish want to stay together. Porgies are also curious and jealous, and they want to know why one of their school is so determined to stay in one place.

This method takes patience. Don't be anxious! There are some unexpected bonuses. First of all, the conversation between you and your buddy gets pretty spirited as you urge each other on. Secondly, you tend to catch many more double headers. And finally, you occasionally hook larger game fish like bluefish or weakfish. Mind you, this is rare, because bluefish or weakfish will tend to cut the leader, or tear the porgy off the hook, but it does add to the excitement.

If you remember a few basic things, porgies are a most obliging fish. Use tackle that can handle a sinker heavy enough to get the bait down to the bottom. Use #4 hooks tied in tandem 2" or 3" above the sinker. Use fresh bait cut into small pieces. Use chum. And if you have the mental fortitude, try "tandem fishing" to keep the fish under the boat.



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TAKING BIG FISH LIGHTLY

by Capt. Zac Grossman

The author, an admitted light tackle advocate, effectively separates serious light tackle angling from the degradation of "stunt" or "trick fishing."

It was one of those flat calm days when the ocean seems totally at rest and you can see forever, like in the song. We were heading offshore with just friends aboard. On open days, when the Mako Express is not booked, she sails anyway. I would rather be bending a fishing rod than bending my elbow at the bar. "Friends only" days are when the crew also gets a chance to fish.

Way up ahead I saw what looked like a tree in the water with half a dozen small limbs sticking through the surface. I changed course a bit and trolled in that direction. I soon realized what I had seen. It was six marlin tails. There was a flurry of action in the cockpit as friends each took up a position next to one of the rods, ready to change lures or adjust their position as they danced in the wake. We were ready for multiple hookups and indeed expected them. Nothing!!

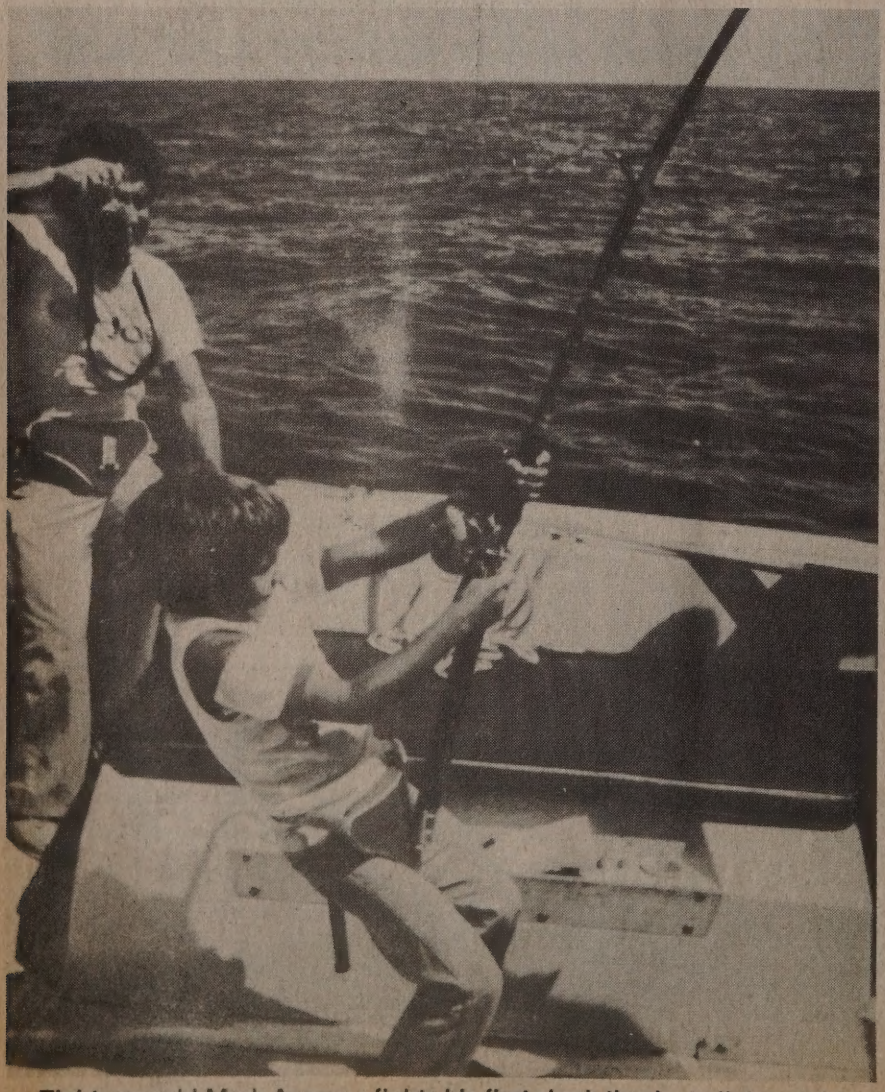
We made another pass, then another, changing speeds, changing lures and still nothing. In came the lures and out went the rigged eels and balao. We had swimmers and skippers, skirted and unskirted. Nothing! The "school" relentlessly pushed on, heading east of Block Island and had already covered some five miles without our efforts causing them to miss a stroke. We circled, we approached from different directions, we ran right through them. Nothing!!!

I ran the boat way up ahead of them along the course they were rigorously following and started up a chum slick. Carefully rigged baits were drifted out into the slick as we sat there watching the marlin approach. They passed right on through the slick. This was war! I turned the helm over to Lou and headed for the pulpit with my favorite long distance casting stick in hand. He gave chase to the six black spikes now heading for the horizon and finally pulled up ahead of the "school" and about 50 yards off their track.

I cocked the rod and let the huge popping plug fly. It arched out over the water and landed beyond and in front of the leader of the pack. It popped its way merrily across the surface heading toward the marlin. It passed right in front of the leader's nose as I braced myself for the strike. I thought to myself, "how could he have let that lure swim by when the life I had imparted to it sent vibrations through air and water alike and droplets rained down all around it?"

About 50 casts and three maneuverings of the boat later I was about to give up. Almost every cast had been right on target; every fish had been properly led like a clay pigeon when skeet shooting and yet each marlin turned away from the lure. One swam right under the pulpit as Paul came up behind me with his camera. I flipped the lure out in front of the huge fish (these marlin all appeared to be about 75 lbs.) and began yet another retrieve.

The fish turned away, but another one, unnoticed, shot out from under the boat and jumped the lure not 20' from where I stood. I set the hook as Paul shouted from behind me. "I got him." A quick look at the cover of this



Eight-year-old Mark Assogna fights his first shark thanks to lightweight tackle and a much reduced drag. Proud father, Vinny, records the event on film.

magazine will show that he certainly did. The rings of water marking the popper's progress across the surface show clearly in the photo, right up to the spot where the marlin jumped the lure and dove quickly to the left.

I knew they were fast, but this was ridiculous. Without the jolt delivered to the fish by a boat trolling along at several knots, the fight starts out with the fish at full strength. Line melted off the spool. What an incredible thrill. Twenty minutes later and the popper lay on the surface. The marlin was, no doubt, in hot pursuit of his schoolmates. C'est la vie. If I hadn't been carrying casting tackle I would never have had that opportunity.

Light tackle has a very definite place offshore. Not necessarily for hunting marlin as this was a very rare pleasure indeed, but for the more plentiful species. We have used spinning, bait casting, and even fly casting tackle offshore. Sharks, school bluefins, longfins, yellowfins, false albacore, skipjacks and even the occasional dolphin have all fallen for the ruse and provided some heart-stopping action. All that is needed to try this phase of the sport is the right tackle and the right attitude.

Let's talk attitude first. There is a difference between a charter party and a bunch of friends on a private boat. Those on the private boat get to fish offshore much more often and, therefore, find it easier to experiment. A charter party is usually out on their once yearly offshore excursion and must be very dedicated to decide to try this brand of fishing. To fish light tackle offshore you have to realize a few things. There will be lost fish. The lighter the tackle the longer the fight. The longer the fight, the bigger the hole worn in the fish's mouth. The longer the fight the slower the angler's reaction. A slight misjudgment or pause and another fish wins its freedom. It will happen, but practice will increase your success ratio.

Long fights on light tackle also mean long rest periods for the others aboard. It is because of this that you cannot go light unless every member of the group is excited about doing so. One grumbler can ruin the fun. It's like being offshore and waiting for that first fish while one member of the party keeps pointing out how many bluefish he could have caught by now. That "wait time" while a fish is being played can be put to good use by taking photos, re-tying tired knots, sharpening hooks, etc., in preparation for finding the school or slick again. Yes, the long fight often means losing the school as well. Having remembered to toss a marker overboard or hit the "memory" button on the Loran will help.

This kind of fishing also means returning to port with less fish than your neighbors who stuck to more conventional methods. If the pleasures of light tackle fishing for species not considered light tackle fare out-

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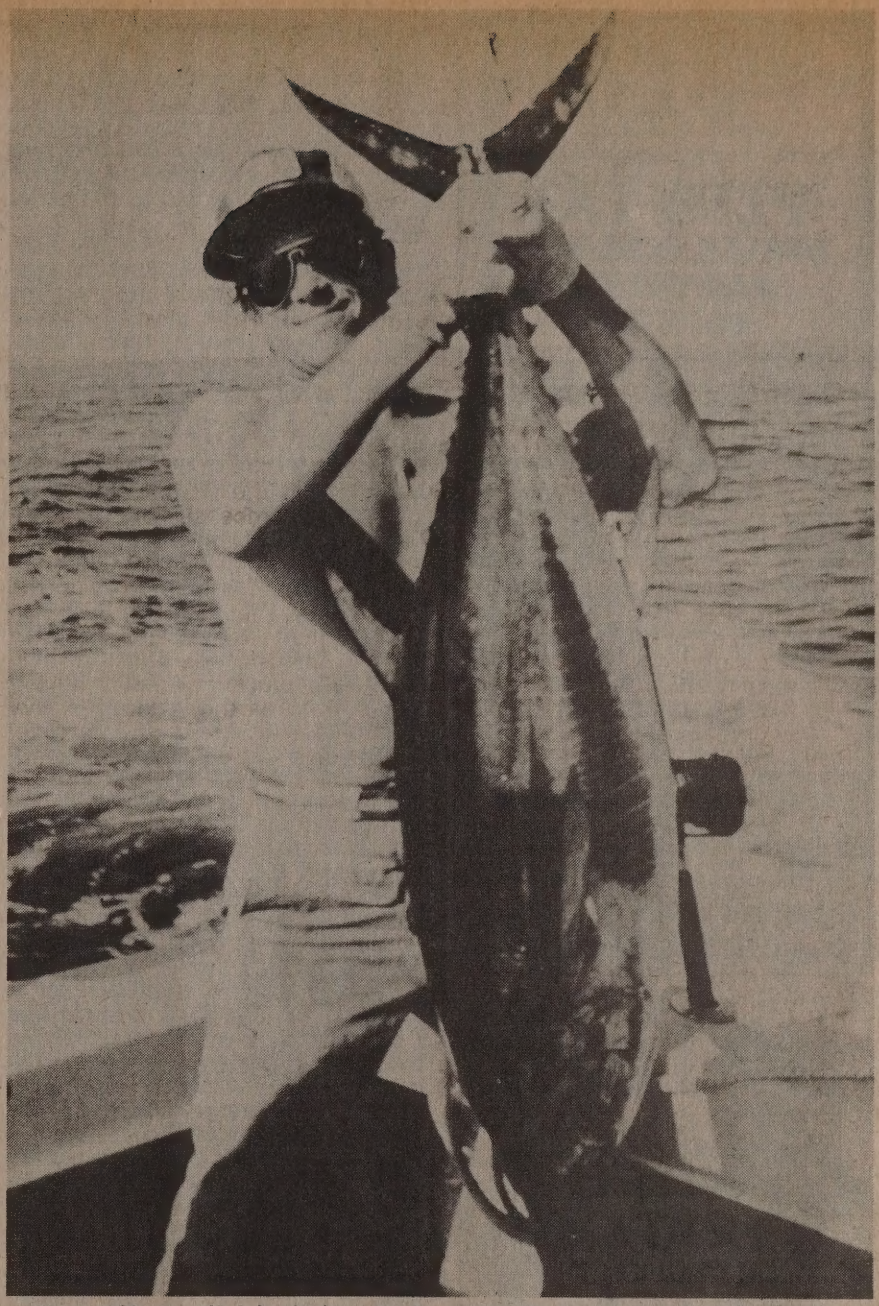

Mate "Chopper" John hefts a 54 lb. yellowfin that lost a lengthy battle with Nancy O'Connor on light tackle.

A pair of false albacore streak away on 10 lb. test spinning gear.

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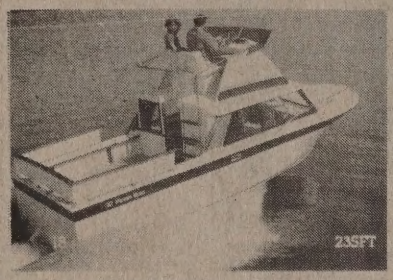

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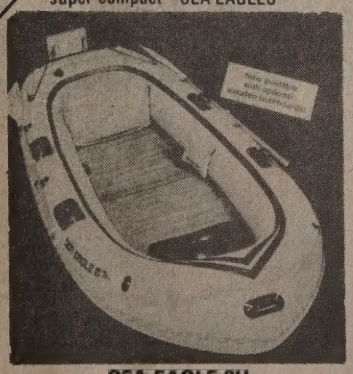

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weigh the disadvantages outlined above then you have the right attitude. If you don't have a boat at your disposal, a word of advice. If you want to try this exciting phase of the sport aboard a charter boat, call first and make sure the captain welcomes such a party and whether he has the tackle necessary.

The right tackle for ultralight fishing is called Ultragood. Only the best equipment can stand up to this punishment. Let's briefly discuss light tackle in general, then discuss the particular tackle as applied to the various techniques used offshore.

The rod is the piece of gear least likely to fail in use and lose a fish in so doing. Breakage is rare and only a product of bad technique and abuse. Therefore, choice of a rod now becomes directly related to the task it is to perform and aside from the general rule of balancing the tackle components, the choice of rod is governed by the technique to be used. The rod must be matched to the line. A rod that is rated for higher tests will not be able to use its shock absorbing properties in time and a sudden action on the fish's part can cause the line to snap. Too soft a rod will now allow as much pressure to be placed on the fish as the line will allow, making it harder to control the battle. Attempting to push the rod beyond its design limits by bringing the butt past the vertical or grasping the blank well above the foregrip and pulling can cause a rod to fracture.

The reel is so important a factor in landing a big fish on light tackle that it cannot be over-emphasized that you must use the best you can afford. The drag system is the most crucial part of the reel's mechanics. Obviously, the smoother the better. There are two attributes required of a drag system that affect your chances against an oversized adversary. There is the starting friction and the running friction. It takes more energy to start the spool turning against the drag than it does to keep it turning once started. The better the drag the closer these two values become and the less adjustment is necessary when fighting a fish. A wide separation of these two values contributes to what is known as a "sticky" drag and forces you to put less pressure on the fish so as not to have the starting friction break the line. The rod's job during the fight is to act as a shock absorber during the fractions of a second when that starting friction is overcome. With a perfect drag system you will never notice the rod jerking. If the drag is slow to respond to the demands placed on it, the rod may not be able to protect the line from sudden jolts transmitted by the fish at the start of each run or when it's shaking its head back and forth, and this can lose a fish. If you have ever tried to break fishing line you know that steady pressure requires many times the force that a sudden jolt does.

To give you some appreciation for the dynamics of your reel's drag we have to resort to a little calculator play. To get the numbers necessary for the equations we'll use equipment familiar to me and to make this a little less dry we'll set up a scenario that's not too unpleasant. Let's say we are out light tackle sharking, using a jigging stick and a Daiwa 50H loaded with 30 lb. test line (about 300 yards). The spool diameter when empty is 3/4 of an inch and when filled to the red line is 2-1/8 inches.

We get a runoff and upon throwing the gear lever and setting the hook we are pleased to see a 100 lb. mako do its Polaris missile imitation. The spool has not yet begun to spin. The fish falls over backward at the height of its climb and does a perfect dive into the sea (I said the scenario wouldn't be too unpleasant). While the droplets from the splash are still falling into the "hole in the water" the fish emerges 50' away for its second jump. Somewhere in-between, if the fish was running away from the boat, the line came tight. That shock first tests the drag's starting friction then line has to be released smoothly throughout the fish's run. Let's say the fish can do 20 mph while still green and very upset. If the fish decides on a straight run at that speed as a fighting tactic, the drag will have to deliver the line at that speed until the boat can ease the pressure. The engines have already been started and the fight is being closely watched from the helm, so fear not.

Let's do that calculation now. First we convert miles per hour into inches per minute. We divide 5280 feet/mile by 60 minutes/hour and multiply the result by 12 inches per foot. This give us 1056 inches per minute as the equivalent of 1 mile per hour. At 20 miles per hour this comes to 21,120 inches per minute (fortunately this fish is carrying around a ten or so pound weight on his back thanks to the drag or at this sustained speed he would strip the reel in 30 seconds).

Now we must calculate how many revolutions per minute the spool must make to deliver line at this speed to the fish and against the drag system. The effective diameter of that Daiwa 50H when loaded (let's say the fish hit close to the boat) is 2-1/8 or 2.125 inches as stated before. If we multiply this by 3.1416 (the value of Pi) we get a circumference of 6.68 inches. This means that for every 7 or so inches of line the fish takes, the spool must revolve one time. So, if we divide that 6.68 inches into the 21,120 inches per minute of our running fish we come up with the spool's revolutions per minute. Would you believe 3,162 RPMs? See what I mean about needing quality tackle? The numbers get even more astounding as the line melt away because this decreases the spool's effective diameter and the RPMs go up as does the amount of drag on the line. That is why the drag MUST be loosened as more and more line disappears over the side. If not, the drag will build up to the point at

which the line will part. I use the rod's arc as my indicator when fighting a fish. I adjust the drag as necessary to maintain the same bend in the rod that it had when the fight began and the drag amount was known.

The physics for conventional and spinning reel drags are the same but a fly reel is very different. The fly line is so thick that it takes up as much room on the spool as a couple hundred yards of backing. Therefore when a fish strips out that first 100 ft. or so (average length of the fly line) it has the same effect on the spool's diameter as if a couple hundred yards of backing had been stripped off in the same amount of time. The drag will increase at an alarming rate. This is why the drag on a fly reel should be set to its appropriate value, based on tippet strength, with the casting line out in the water so it doesn'g give a false effective diameter to the spool.

It's not necessary to remember the exact numbers of RPMs, etc., when fighting a fish but it pays to be impressed by them when buying a reel. You don't want to be worried later while fighting a fish. It's bad enough that when that mako leaped into the air your heart leaped into your mouth, making speech and breathing very difficult.

The line is the simplest yet most fragile piece of equipment. All the other components at both ends, rod, reel, swivel are engineered with one prime pupose: protect the line. The line is that fine filament that connects you to your trophy. There is no feeling quite like the one you get when the line parts. Why then should price make a difference? Saving pennies here makes all the other expensive equipment worth nothing more than a piece of parted line. The line should be highly resistant to abrasion.

Game fish either have rough skins, sharp gill slits, sandpaper bills, or razor teeth, etc. If they were easy, they wouldn't be game fish. Abrasion resistance is a must. You can't always rely on the leader to keep the fish away from the line. A jumping, darting, rolling fish will not always do as you would like so every bit of insurance is well worth it. That same hard finish that makes a line abrasion resistant also helps you to make perfect knots. The hard surface, when moistened with saliva, causes the loops to slide freely and jam the knot shut. I use a line long popular on the West Coast for light tackle fishing because of its toughness, Maxima. This line, while not cheap, has all the qualities on which I rely when fighting big fish. My equipment is not usually in the hands of experts; charter parties can't afford to go out every week and practice on monsters, so I buy tackle that can stand the punishment. We've discussed the basics of tackle selection and during the discussion of techniques I will note any special considerations or exceptions.

There are basically two ways of fishing offshore: trolling and drifting. Light tackle can be used with either and adds a new dimension of its own that standard tackle can't be used for, casting. We'll cover casting separately even though it is done from a drifting boat. Let's discuss drifting first.

From a drifting boat you can fish baits in a chum slick and you can diamond jig. You can use light tackle for either, just remember what we said about attitude. If a school of small bluefins invade your chum slick diamond jigging can be great fun and a reel like that 50H make it quite a challenge. If a 75 pounder sneaks in among the 20 and 30 lbers., well that's life. You'll probably learn firsthand about getting those 300 yards stripped off and it won't take 30 seconds either. This is a good time to mention that extra line should be carried aboard in case a reel gets stripped. Once you've had some fun there is nothing to stop you from experimenting as long as your buddies are behind you. That same surf spinner mentioned earlier has been successful on nice school bluefins starting way back on Capt. Walter Weigand's Flamingo III out of Sheepshead during the great schoolie runs off Jersey.

If you're into smaller fish like false albacore and bonito you can go even lighter. You don't have to take these fish on jigs necessarily. We've taken them in the slick on small chunks of mackerel and bunker on tiny, but strong, school tuna hooks. Hide it well in the bait and drift the chunk into the slick. For this kind of fishing you can experiment with bait casting and ultra-light spinning. I can tell you that a 12 lb. false albacore on 6 lb. test spinning is a blast.

If you're fishing for sharks, again you can try any light tackle you care to. You can get into this sport slowly by choosing your fish when they come to the boat in numbers. At least you know what size fish you're up against and its species. You can get plenty of practice on fish you plan to release anyway. Once you've gotten some experience you can try fishing blind, putting light tackle rigs out in the chum slick where you can't see who the taker is. Light tackle is especially good on those days when you are surrounded by blue sharks, it really helps make the day memorable. The hottest action of that kind that we ever had was 16 blue sharks, all on 15 and 20 lb. test spinning outfits. On occasion a fish will swim right to the boat or will refuse to leave the boat when the hook is set. I've found that the tagging stick (might as well put a tag in it at this point and then you only have to cut the wire later) makes them beat a hasty retreat away from the boat. Now they will feel the pressure from the drag and the fight will start in earnest.

I would like to digress for a moment here and say that there is a difference between light tackle fishing and "trick fishing." A 200 lb. blue shark on 6 lb. test is a "tricked fish." Feed-

(Continued on next page.)

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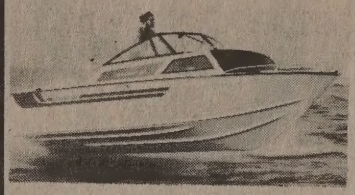

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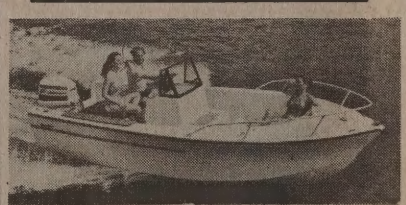

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ing the bait to such a fish at boatside when it's trying to eat the chum bag and then sinking the flying gaff into him because he refuses to leave does not constitute a light tackle catch in my book. Is 6 lb. test strong enough to handle the force needed to set the hook on such a fish? Is it strong enough to turn such a fish around and bring him against his will to boatside? I think the IGFA should require witnesses to call catches as they now do only with flyrod records and I think the length of battle should be one of the statistics judged. With a gutsy mate on the gaff a 3 minute shark on ultralight tackle is not difficult and will have given the angler as much fight as a 3 minute egg. Show me a mate who'll try this with a 200 lb. "green" mako and I'll show you a man who deserves an award, a purple heart.

Back to sport fishing. We often use 30 lb. class outfits when sharking but of a more standard size like the 400H which holds enough line to rate as light rather than ultralight. I find more and more customers wanting to give this gear a try. My favorite rig is this 30 lb. outfit (the rod is a limber 8 footer, custom built by my friend Frank, that can really absorb shock and is practically weightless). This rig has 14 makos as well as many yellowfins and longfins to its credit and has lost none due to failure of the rod, reel, or line (those West Coast boys know their stuff). Both makos were lost to leaders kinked in "flight."

Trolling can also be done with light tackle like that 30 lb. rig. Line capacity is important here because so much line disappears over the side due to the fish and boat going in different directions early in the fight. I'm not talking about taking a reel meant for 50 lb. test and packing a thousand yards of 30 on it, I'm talking about balanced tackle and a challenge. You can use equipment suited better to jigging here as well and we have trolled with spinners loaded wih 15 and 20 lb. test too but you'd better be ready. A big yellowfin or medium bluefin and you've just deposited your line in Neptune's tackle shop. Light tackle is fun and games time and even holding onto a bucking rod while the boat is heeled over in a tight turn and the engines are screaming as loud as the reel's drag was an instant before the line ran out is pretty darn exciting. Granted, I wouldn't want it to happen very often but it is an "interesting" experience.

About that new dimension, offshore casting; it can be done with spinners, bait casters, conventionals, and fly rods. Often this just consists of flipping a diamond jig 50 feet behind a fish being led to gaff and sometimes it means long distance casting accuracy.

Roving schools of skipjacks can easily be found offshore but are usually ignored because of their size (about 6 lbs.). On one-handed spinning gear and 6-10 lb. test they are incredible. Pull up ahead of such a school and cast your lure beyond them. A rapid retrieve is necessary and I've found that small Avas, Sidewinders, Kastmasters, etc., as well as white or yellow bucktails will all have their day. Often you will be using unbalanced tackle such as a spinner loaded with 12 lb. test line heaving a 6 oz. Ava jig. A lob cast is needed as the rod does not have the backbone necessary to snap cast such a lure. A shock leader should also be used. A tapered fly leader with a tippet of 12 lb. test is perfect when tied backwards to the end of your line. Tying the tippet to the end of your spinning line with a blood knot will mean that the line will gradually get thicker as it nears the swivel at the butt end of the reversed leader. The part of the leader hanging in the tiptop may be 30 lb. test and well able to withstand the pressures of casting oversized lures on light tackle.

Spinning reels and some conventionals offer the high speed retrieves often necessary to fool offshore gamesters. If you're using a flyrod you may have to hold it between your knees and strip line with both hands. If a fish or a group of fish detach themselves from the school and then follow your fly right to the boat without hitting it, it means that your retrieve is too slow. In the haste of stripping in all this line you also have to remember that when one of these offshore gamesters does inhale your offering those coils of line will be going the other way and many times faster. Don't watch the fish, keep your head down and watch that flyline that is literally jumping off the deck or out of the stripping basket. A second's hesitation in clearing this line and it's bye bye Charlie (even if the fish wasn't destined for Starkist).

My favorite rig for reaching out when a target swims by, and the one I used on that marlin, is a 10½' light action (West Coast style) surf rod. It weighs only 11 oz. On this I use a large capacity surf spinner loaded 20 lb. test. With this rig I can launch a 4 oz. lure on a fish finding mission when the target is passing way out in the slick without having to start up and leave the area. I also keep a lighter stick (a 7' graphite loaded with 10) and a saltwater flyrod ready for action. One of the keys to enjoying light tackle action offshore is being ready when opportunity knocks.

If you find yourself in a school of skipjacks or better yet false albacore break out that light tackle and have a ball. If opportunity knocks in the form of yellowfins or school bluefins or a mako don't pass up the change. So what if you lose one now and then, there are plenty more.

When you find yourself standing on the dock with your prize, posing for the camera, featherweight tackle in hand, look around and see who's watching you. Your neighbor, leaning against his fighting chair with the twin 130 lb. rigs in the holders, will be. If he asks if you really caught those fish on that tackle just smile and say "Sure, I take big fish lightly."

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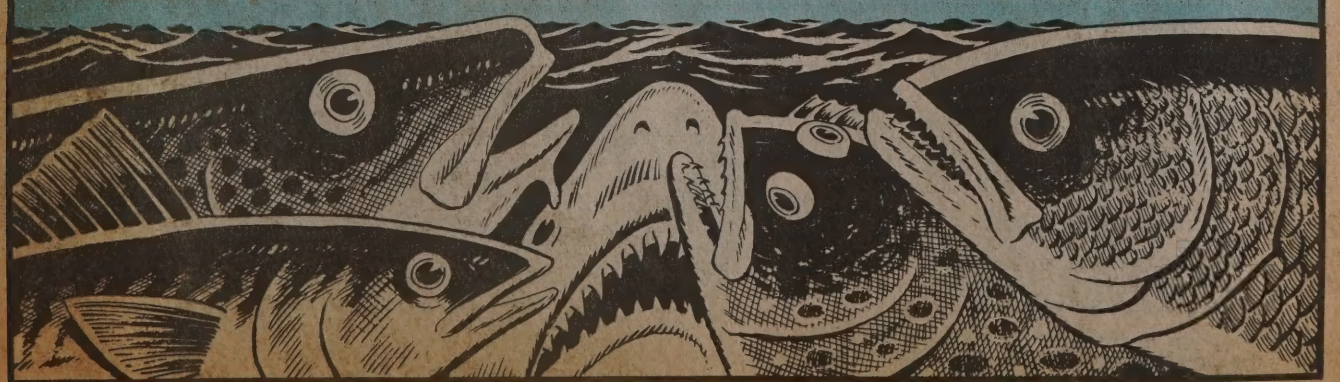

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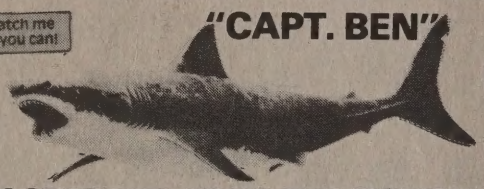

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East End Report

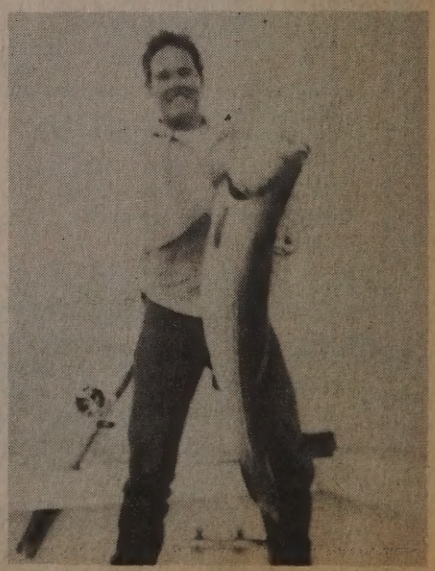
by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

With the elevation in water temperature, shark have moved into the Montauk area in good numbers, thereby making the offshore scene fraught with excitement. Along with a continuation of codfishing, a good start of porgy action and some great bluefishing, the season's action is starting to sizzle.

On Captain Fritz Hubner's charter boat **Mistress Too**, Tuesday saw a lot of excitement with a 22' to 24' long great white shark was spotted by the skipper and crew. When the fish refused all baits offered him, the mate was forced to harpoon the monster, sinking the dart just forward of the dorsal fin. What followed was a 15 minute double ball pursuit with the dark finally pulling out. On Friday, Captain Walter Haab of the charter boat **Sea Con IV** spotted this great white again just 7 ft. away from his boat and noted a small wound just forward of the dorsal. Both captains agreed this was a mighty big critter. Wednesday and Thursday, the **Mistress Too** had many blue sharks fishing SE and SW of the point in 32 to 38 fathoms. A few mako were taken there and a lot were also lost. Saturday's charter was a repeat on the blue sharks, but on Sunday's trip for John Principato of the Bronx 10 blue shark were taken along with a 258 lb. thresher shark.

The porgies are in strong, was the word from Captain Dusty and Captain Fred of the **Litte Bear** and **Flying**



Skip Rudolph, mate aboard the Montauk charter boat "Adios," displays a 30 lb. striper taken on a jig.

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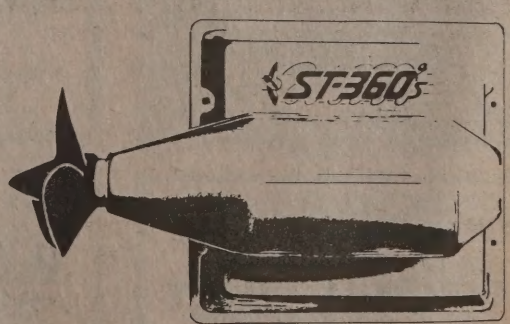

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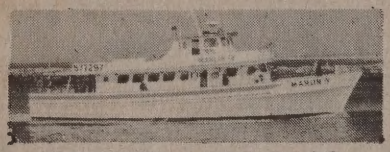

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Richard Sullivan caught this super flattie, a 43½ lb. halibut, on a recent Georges Bank trip aboard Montauk's "Viking Starship."

Cloud. Fares have been going anywhere from a half to a full 5 gallon pail per man of 1-2 lb. porgies. Sunday was an exceptionally good day. Water temperatures are just right for these silver scrappers which are being fished off the lighthouse.

From the **Viking Fleet** we learn that the daily Coxes Ledge codfishing remains excellent with solid catches made daily of fish up to 40 lbs. A few pollack and blackfish are mixed in.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6-man limit open boat **Waxed** has been filling 5-7 gallon buckets for his customers all week with slammer (2-3 lb.) porgies. Flounder up to 3¼ lbs., sea bass, blacks and fluke were also caught. Double filled buckets are not that uncommon now. Fishing has been at the Point and has been satisfaction with the porgy action on the Waxed.

Skipper Len Gregorio of the charter boat **Bear** reports lots of mako and blue sharks. On Saturday three blue sharks were tagged and released. A 155 lber. was brought back in for a head mount. The charter also had an estimated 325 lb. mako on for 35 minutes but it was lost at the boat as it dove and cut the line in the prop. Len knows of at least 6 other makos brought in Saturday with a few in the 100 lb. class. Action is S. S.E. of the Point. Lots of life anywhere from 216' out to 40 fathoms, with the water temp 58 to 60 degrees.

The charter boat **Ebb Tide** concurs, talking of excellent sharking now with a combination of blue shark and occasional makos making the adrenalin flow.

Captain Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** fished Sal D'Angelo both

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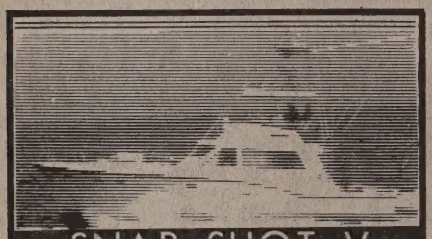
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Saturday and Sunday, with a total of 260 lbs. of large porgies from 1-3 lbs. taken at Great Eastern on the south side, plus 32 flounder from 1-2¾ lbs. caught at Culloden Point, all on clam.

Aboard the charter boat **Montauk** excellent sharking is being had also. Captain Mike says Tuesday he had the first mako caught for the charter fleet with Yonkers angler Bill Semra on the rod. Saturday's charter stayed inshore taking 50 bluefish up to 16 lbs. and 75 porgies up to 3 lbs. A giant tuna was in the slick Sunday. Two makos were on during the day but both broke off.

Offshore fishing has shaped up very nicely said Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios**, particularly in the latter part of the week with makos and blue shark doing their stuff. On Friday's trip, Wayne Purul of Marlton, NJ scored with a 300 lb. mako which was a jumper and fought very hard for a solid hour. Saturday's trip for Harold Elsis rang the bell with an 80 lb. mako and 10 blue shark. Inshore fishing remains very good for bluefish.

Aboard Captain John's charter boat **Vivienne** the first good catch of weakfish was made Sunday on the charter's way back from porgy and bluefishing. The score on weaks was 50 in the 7-12 lb. range for Ted and Sue Kowalczyk, of Penna. This was on Ava jigs and Sekora tubes. John says he has some prime weakfish dates available for anyone interested.

Lot of blues at Cartwright and at Southeast Light, reports charter boat **Nostalgia II** with lots of blue shark and mako around.

Captain Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** fishing Saturday and Sunday hooked into various size blue shark and says he has heard of many makos being fought and a lot of these landed. Water temperature is the key and as it rises so should the offshore catches. Lots of blues at Cartwright being taken on trolled umbrella rigs.

Aboard the charter boat **Bronco Explorer** early in the week the first

Robbie, Ward, Colby, Jack and John with 8 bass from 20-41 lbs. taken on a night bass trip aboard the Montauk charter boat "Windy." Fish were taken on trolled Danny and Super Strike plugs.

A fine haul of big cod made at Montauk aboard Capt. Mike Potts' "Blue Fin."

canyon trip of the season was made with a catch of 37 albacore from 25-50 lbs. and a 60 lb. yellowfin tuna. Lost was a bigeye tuna due to a broken leader which popped after a long battle.

Flounder are still a good item, advised Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina**, at Culloden Point and North Bar near the Point. Porgies and sea bass are hitting clam bait at the Elbow while there is a showing of weaks on umbrellas and diamond jigs east of Outer Shagwong. John Alberda hoisted a nice 9 lb. fluke fishing off the south side this week, while Scott and Vince Bianco along with Ken Krebbs had numerous blue shark fishing south of the Point Friday in 200' of water. Captain Bill Ricca fished Sal and Val Conti aboard his charter boat **Alyssa Ann** Friday totaling 21 bluefish, 8-14 lbs. on jigs at Cartwright. On Saturday's trip the charter had blues and cod on jigs south of Block.

Captain Mike Potts of the **Bluefin I and IV** charter fleet gave us a quick condensed report that both boats have been slaughtering blues all week on both umbrellas and diamond jigs. Also on his first 2 shark trips of the season this week Mike's charters scored with 2 makos, one on each trip, fish running 125 and 234 lbs.

SOUTH FORK

It seems to be the time for porgies in Sag Harbor with good catches being made on party boats and rental skiffs. Aboard Captain Artie Lach's **Wilhelric II** porgies are now the prime target Thursday through Monday with fluking relegated to Tuesdays and Wednesdays, since the porgy action is the big push now and there seems to be a super abundance of the critters available. Porgies were excellent Thursday and Friday and though they slowed Saturday there are plenty of them around, of mixed sizes. The **Wilhelric's** recorder has been showing super readings....haystacks and Christmas trees.

Porgies and blowfish is the word from **Bayview Fishing Station**,

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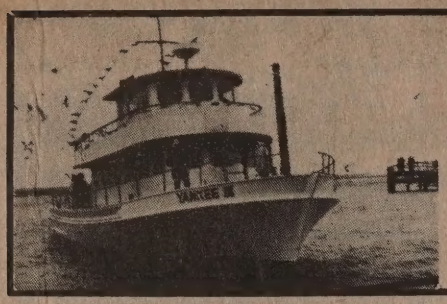

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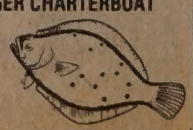

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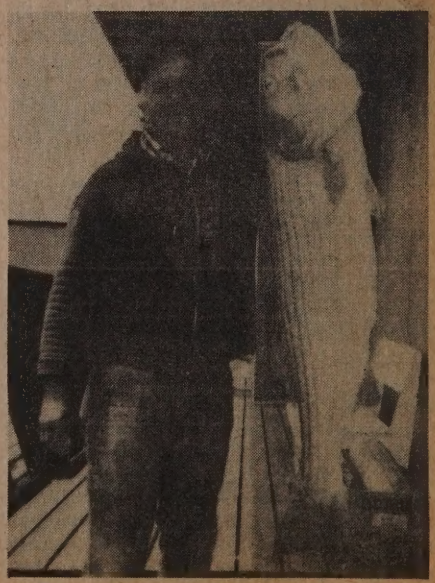
catches being made at Mashomack and Cedar Points. Mashomack Point has been holding loads of 1-3 lb. bluefish which are hitting umbrellas. An occasional fluke take the hooks at Cedar Point. Near buoys 16 and 17 porgies, weaks and blues can be either diamond jigged or as concerns the weakfish, they can be taken on chunk bait on the bottom. Also some porgies and blowfish off Long Wharf and the bridge.

Over in Noyac, Helen at **Noyac Marina** advises that Fred and Anne Barreto of Levittown fishing west of buoy 18 parallel with the tower took 50 big porgies on clam bait and no chum Sunday on a rising tide. A few blowfish are scattered around the bay.

Over in Southampton **Speck's Bait and Tackle** tells us that Shinnecock bay still has good fluking with an increasing keeper ratio. Small blues are all over the bays. They are also running wild in the Peconics from 1½ to 4 lbs. and anglers are scoring best with poppers and tins. Porgies are being caught in the Peconics at buoys 26 and 27, at Middle Grounds in Jessup's and in Sag Harbor. Occasional fluke and weakfish are being taken at buoy 26. Cedar Point has had some good porgy action while several good scores on blackfish have been made off the Southold brick yard. Some inconsistent porgies and fluke at Gardiner's.

The **Capt. Clark II** sailing out of Shinnecock Canal advises that the porgy fishing in Peconic Bay has been red hot all week. The wrecks are loaded with medium to large porgies and large blackfish. Kings are also starting to show up. On Sunday with Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. at the helm, the boat totalled over 900 porgies with high hook honors going to Jack Albertson of Brooklyn with 87 porgies and 3 blackfish. This fishing has been



Stan Lewandonski live-lined this 41 lb. cow inside of Shinnecock Inlet. The big striper was weighed at Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays.

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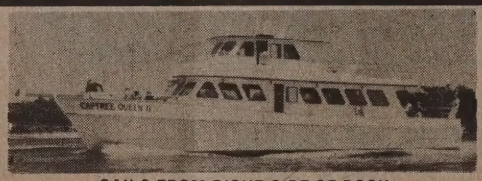

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consistent for the last 7-10 days. Last week's ocean wreck trip for sea bass was fair to good. Wednesday, Dee & Haywood Kennah, of Hollis, Queens had a total high hook catch of 25 sea bass and 4 blacks. As the water warms, more sea bass should be showing. Ocean wreck trips are scheduled for every Wednesday and Saturday weather permitting.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

EAST END BAYS & INLETS

Some good action both inshore and off according to Lanny over at **Molnar's Landing** in Hampton Bays. Fluke and flounder dominated the inshore scene with Jim Delano and his crew aboard the Peace of Mind putting away 48 fluke on Friday, 38 on Saturday and 40 on Sunday. Fishing was done in East Channel with spearing and squid. Some fine catches of flounder to 2½ pounds were looked over by Lanny in recent days with all coming from the Basket area. Bass action at the inlet has faded but blue still being trolled in 90-100' of water south of the inlet on 300' of wire and umbrellas.

A decent showing of makos in 150 to 200' of water along with loads of blue sharks. The Diamond II had a 95 pound mako over the weekend.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Seamist** also spoke of a good showing of makos south of Moriches Inlet. He added that many large blue sharks are also available. Bluefishing has been good with 2-5 pounders just outside

Wayne and Keith Abrams, Bill Donaldson and Rich Rielly with 125 flatties up to 3 lbs. taken at buoy 42 on blood and sandworms. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

Eleven-year-old Kevin Uss and his dad Tony, along with several friends, loaded up on flounder at buoy 52 in Moriches Bay. Sandworms, heavy chum and outgoing water were the key. Fishing was done out of L&M Marine.

the inlet and bigger fish further off in 80-100 feet of water.

Flounder fishing continued to dominate the activity inside of Moriches Bay this past week. Surprisingly, most rental skiff customers worked on the flounder rather than fluke and judging by the results, for good reason.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** told of Jeff and Maxwell White who bagged 116 flounder at buoy 39 on Saturday. Many of the flatties are still in the 1 pound class. Fluke are far from being neglected with boats during the week returning with as many as 25-30 keepers from the Elbow area. Roy Balsom, Kevin LeClaire and Bob and David Santise took 36 keepers at buoy 39 over the weekend. Best fluking has been on the last of incoming water.

Tony DePiro, Steve Galasso, and Jim Saleria returned to **L & M Marine** in East Moriches with 104 flounder on Saturday. They fished buoy 39 with bloodworms, dyed clam and mussel chum. Fluke fishing has been worthwhile out in front of the C.G. Station. On Sunday, Sam Montesano, daughters Lucille and Toni Ann, son Steve, and friend Skippy took 15 nice fluke to 3½ pounds on sandeels and squid fishing this area.

Fluke fishing appears to be finally settling down now that we have had some summerlike weather said Jeff at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station**. Best scores are being made near buoy 38 & 39 on sandeels and squid combos. Last ½ of incoming tide has provided the best action.

Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** termed the flounder fishing ex cellent and added that fluking's not so bad either. Of the "winter" flatties, Patricia and Fitzroy Winter, along with Hank Schlanger, put away 93 of them at buoy 36 on Friday. Same day, John Kropp and Lou Wilson worked over the fluke to the tune of 27 fish aup to 3 pounds. They fished the elbow with sandeels and squid. On Saturday, Matt and John Viol tasted the best of both worlds. They finished up with 97 flounder and 7 fluke at buoy 39.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

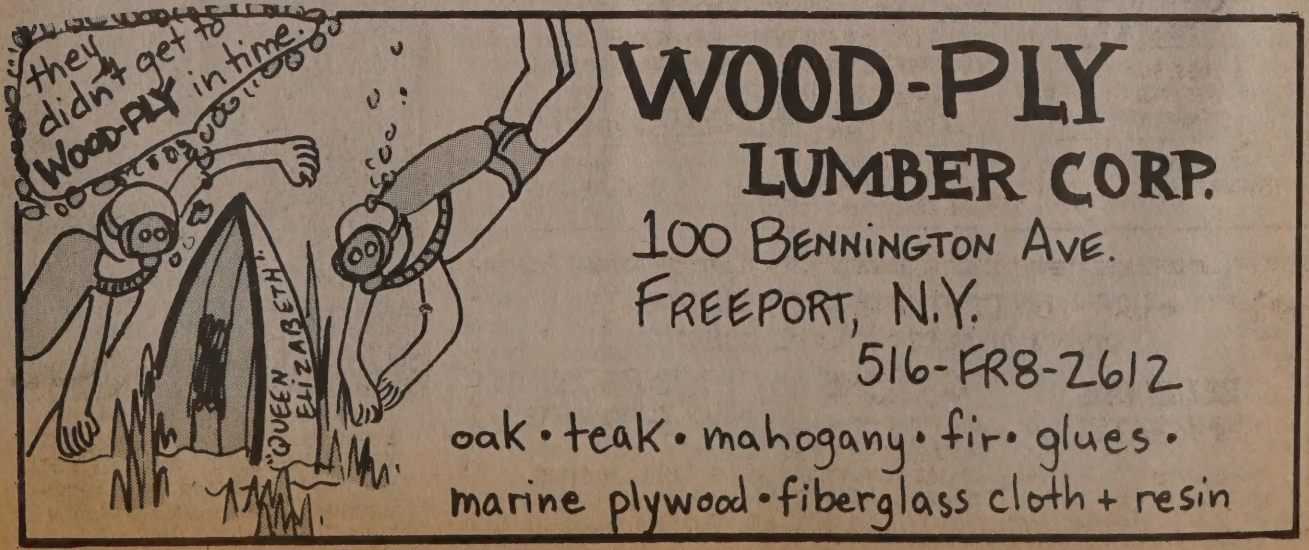
A "decent" pick of fluke in the bay said Vinnie from **South Bay Fishing Station** in West Sayville. He has been sending most of his boats over to Ocean Beach. A few porgies and sea bass at buoy 17 and sporadic action with small blues. The summer run of small weaks is showing sings of life andthereis still an occasional tide-runner taken. Vinnie noted that there are plenty of blowfish in the bay but few anglers seem to be catching many of them. He suggested chumming for the puffers and added that baymen have been potting lots of them.

John "Rod" DiGiacomo, of **J & R Sport Center** in Oakdale looked over 3 weaks from 7 to 10 pounds taken by Bob Willets and Charlie Beck over the weekend. The overall weakfish picture however is poor. Fluking has been erratic with some boatmen finding good results and others doing very little. Ocean bluefishing brightened with some excellent scores made over the weekend at the Three Sisters Wreck. Jigs did most of the damage during the day but fish were chummed after dark. Rod adked that we remind customers of recent changes in the store's hours which are now 5AM to 8PM, Monday-Saturday, and 5AM-4PM on Sunday.

Blues, mostly 2-3 pounds but some larger in and out of the inlet on wire and umbrella rigs according to Ireene of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in East Islip. As for the fluke fishing, she described it as pretty good some days, slow on others. Fish seem to be spread out all over the bay with the R.M. Brdige area, W. Channel, Dickerson Channel, The Lighthouse, Ocean Beach and the State Channel all producing some fish.

From Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle**, came the results of the weekend's "Bay Shore Mako Tournament." In the club competition, perennial winner Oakdale Sportsman's Club again finished on top with 2327 points. Host Bay Shore Tuna Club finished in second spot with 1323 points while Irish Anglers finished third with 895 total points. The mako division was led by Joe Berger's 292 pounder followed by Harry Brown's 248 pound fish and Herb Sylvester's 206 pounder. In the overall category,

Pat Larsen and Steve Brummer with 83 flounder taken on worms and heavy mussel chum in Moriches Bay. The pair fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station.



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Wolf Hager led all comers with his 486 pound tiger shark. He was followed by Harry Kirschner's 479 pound dusky and another dusky of 457 pounds taken by James Parker. All told, there were 7 duskies over 350 pounds checked in. Thirty six makos were included in the total of 110 eligible sharks (100 pound minimum weight).

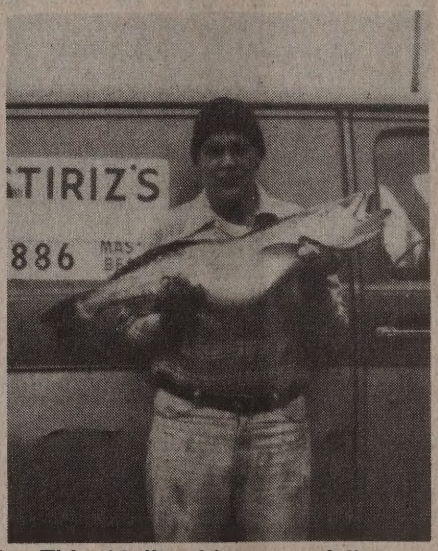
On a less grander scale, the Bay Shre tackleman spoke of blues inside the inlet on wire and umbrellas. Most are under 3 pounds. The overall fluke picture is fair with Ocean Beach and the West Island area producing some pretty good scores. Carl also knew that a few bass are being clam chummed at the bridges.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the Bay Shore open boat **Casey Lee** spoke of a fair pick of fluke with most days producing anywhere between 75 and 150 fish. E. Schultz put away the big fish of the week with his 8.13 pounder. Neil has been working Ocean Beach, West Island and Sexton Island.

At Captree, an excellent showing of blues for both day and night boats provided a needed shot in the arm. Fluking this week appeared very inconsistent with varying reports of action depending on where and when one fished.

Night captain Pete Furnari of the Jib VII was very enthused abouth Saturday nights bluefish score in which 13 fares finished up with well over 200 blues that ranged from 5 pounds on up into the low teens. Bill Meyers was hi-hook with 26 choppers. As for the fluking, Capt. Marty has been managing to pick enough fish to keep people happy on most trips. Jay Kohout copped the pool on Satuday afternoons trip with a 5 pounder.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** said that Saturday was an off day for the fluke but Sunday was pretty good with 30 fares finishing up with about 175 keepers. After a slow pick on blues Friday night, the boat enjoyed a slaughter on Saturday night in the vicinity of the Three Sisters Wreck. Fifteen fares bagged over 400 blues, most 3-8 pounds, with Hank Lackner and his sons Rick and Hank taking 96 of them.



This 14 lb. tiderunner fell to Ralph Tepedino near buoy 14. He fished out of Stiriz' Fishing Station in Mastic Beach.

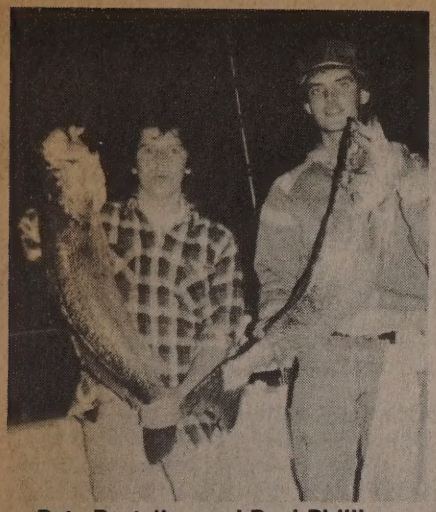
Capt. Joe Evans of the charter boat **Seabird** managed to find a "hot" fluke spot on Saturday to the benefit of a Knights of Columbus charter headed by Tom Farrell. The skipper spent most of the day working the shallow bar at the north end of Snakehill Channel.

Recently returned to action, the **Speedy VI** cashed in on the hot bluefish action near the 3 Sisters Wreck on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was wild according to Capt. Speedy Hubert while Sunday was still good but not up to Saturday hectic action when the hi-hook had 50 blues. A good number of 8-12 pound fish were included in the catch. Night action has been comparable to the daytime fishing according to the skipper with jig doing the job days and bait and chum taking over at night.

Capt. Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** found some respectable size fluke for a charter from P.R.D. Electronics. Ten fish over 4 pounds, including a 5 pound plus poolwinner, were taken during the days fishing at Ocean Beach. With members of the Knights of Pythias aboard on Sunday, the skipper worked the State Channel to the tune of 150 keepers. Nine year old Wendy Walsh, whose mom is secretary of Lady Reelers Fishing Club, won the pool with a 3¾ pound fluke. Nearly all of the fish fell to killies.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** felt that fluke fishing showed signs of improving since Friday. The skipper has been working the shoals around Snakehill Channel, the State Channel at grass Island and Ocean Beach with the best fishing back in the bay on the flood tide. Best in the Inlet on the Ebb. Hi-hook each of the last few days ranged from 5 to8 fish. The **Queen** also cased in on Saturday nights banner bluefishing at 3 Sisters with Gordon reporting about 500 blues for 20 fares. Most were in the 2-8 pound range. Friday night was slow but fish were larger most in the 6-12 pound range.

A note that may be of interest to those looking for a change of pace reveals a special wreck trip for cod being offered by the **Yankee III.**



Pete Bertolino and Paul Phillips with a pair of 12 lb. weaks taken on a June trip aboard the Captree open boat, "Captree Queen II." The pair totalled 5 weaks and 2 blues on the trip.

Departure time is 4AM on Monday, July 5.

Oddity of the week at **Augies Bait and Tackle** in Babylon was the 36" long, 4 pound eel taken by Mario Cannizzo out of Southard's Pond. The highlight must have been Joe Paradiso Jr.'s 508 pound mako taken 150 degrees out of F.I. Inlet in 150' of water on a 4/0 senator and 30 pound test. The action took place aboard the family boat Karen Ann which was not entered in the Bay Shore Mako Affair. Inside the bay, Fred Corbett spoke of fair fluke action and said that small blues are in and out of the inlets.

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** suggested Ocean Beach and West of the RM Bridge for fluke with live killies the best bet in the bait department. Blues are S.W. of the inlet in 80-100 feet of water. Lots of crabs are showing at the Town Dock although only 3 out of 10 are keepers. A slow weekend in every department according to Gary Corbett of **Jonas Bait and Tackle** in Copiague with the only activity being some picky fluke action in the State Channel.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY

Capt. Brian of the Seaford open boat **Chinco II** said that good weather during the week resulted in equally good fishing with catches averaging about 6 keepers per man. On Wednesday's trip, Joe Pilch of Wantagh managed 19 keepers. The skipper has been working all local back bay areas and has found the last of outgoing and the first of incoming water producing the best results. Most fish being taken on killie and squid combos.

Very good bluefishing in 80' of water south of the Inlet according to Lon Wanser of **Wansers Bait and Tackle** in Seaford. Fish to 10 pounds being trolled and jigged. Small blues inside and just outside of the Inlet with one boat trolling a box of 1-4

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pound choppers at the end of the week. Still good flounder fishing in the deeper holes particularly near the Meadowbrook Bridge, Third Wantagh bridge and the Jones Beach Piers. Fluke, with about a 25% keeper ratio spread between four corners, Goose Creek, Sloop Channel and Massapequa Cove. Largest flattie Lon saw during the week was a 4½ pounder. A few big bass around the bridges and Lon knew of at least one in the 40's taken on live bait at Black's Bank. A few fish also being clam chummed.

John Dombrowski of **Pop's Fishing Station** in Seaford gave flounder the edge over the fluke this past week. The winter flatties are still nice sized fish and are being taken on worms and on mussel chum in both Swift Creek and Squaw Island. Harry Landes and Ed Manchur filled 2 buckets with flatties at Swift Creek on the weekend. As for the fluking, John figured about 5 keepers per boat is average with most of the fish being taken on the turn of the tide. He too spoke of a 25% keeper ratio. An occasional blowfish, bluefish and weakfish picked up on fluke baits.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore called the fluke fishing in the Jones Inlet area decent although many of the fish must be returned to the water. Small blues inside the inlet with bigger fish out in 100-120' of water. Some nice bass taken last week on live bunker back in the bays but this fishing died prior to the weekend according to Scott.

Flounder got the nod over fluke in the Merrick area as well. Jimmy Boulukos of **Nick's Marina** in Merrick told of good action in Swift Creek and in the State Channel behind Jones Beach for the winter flatties. Muriel and Donny Baglibi and Ray Kiser totalled 92 flounder on Saturday and 61 more on Sunday including a 2.10 pounder. Worms and clam chum the

Pat Moravik put away his first weak ever in high style. The 12½ lber. was taken at Oak Beach and weighed at Lindenhurst Bait & Tackle.

main ticket for the flounder. There has been some fluke action but overall Jimmy described it as picky. He noted too that the T Wreck remains alive with blackfish.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

In this part of town fluking has been anywhere from fair to excellent this week while shark action starts to come into its own with blue and mako shark and bluefishng starts to get hot for inshore trollers and the open boat fleet that are jigging daytime and baiting and chumming at night. Beginning with the Freeport Fleet we note that the **Capt. Al** had good bluefish catches Sunday for those jigging hard. Pat Lindroth, the skipper's wife, scored with 6 bluefish and dropping 2 more. Catches were very good all week. Saturday, Ralph Martinez of the Bronx had 30 blues and came back for 18 more on Sunday. These are mainly 4-6 lbers. with a few going up to 14 lbs. Al has been fishing the Three Sisters area and the Highlands. Some weakfish were also taken on Thursday. One fare had a weakfish double-header as he was fishing a jig and a tube tied in 3' up the line. This has all been diamond jigging during the day. The boat's night trips have been to Cholera. Saturday night saw 17 fares take over 200 blues, while Friday night 20 men had roughly 150 fish.

Aboard the **Starstream II** Capt. Richie tells of how the blues have been building all week, culminating in a super day of bluefish jigging Saturday, catches up to 40 blues a man. High hook was Ed Burke with 40 in the 3-12 lb. range. Average fish ran 3-7 lbs. Catches of 25-35 fish was not unusual per man on jigs at the Three Sisters. Sunday's fishing was fair, dropping slightly due to the blustery east wind, but in the morning there was a lot of wild, white water fishing on top. The boat has now started two bluefish trips a day sailing at 6:30 am and 7PM daily.

The charter boat **Capt. Gary** called to say that Thursday's venture for T.S.S./Martin's Softgoods Div., had a very good day of fluking with Gae Soviero taking high hook honors with 9 keeper fluke. The pool went to Vito Lano, with a 3½ lb. fluke. Saturday's trip for Macy's of Queens saw Mike Wilson high hook with 12 keepers and the pool going to Kevin Jones with a 3

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Iber. On Sunday, Finger Metrics Co., White Plains had fair fluking. High hook was Sal Fucci with 14 keeper fluke. George Grimes took the pool with a 3½ lber. The skipper will be running open all 3 days of the Fourth of July weekend at 8AM for fluke.

Riis Park and Reynolds Channel reports **Freeport Boatmen's Association** produced good fluking all this past week and weekend for the Association boats going after the flatfish. The 6-man trolling boats did nicely on blues from the inlet to Three Sisters and south of the BA for 6-8 lb. bluefish. **Norsemen and Atlantic** did the diamond jig act at Three Sisters on 3-5 lb. fish. The **Super Spray II** on its night bluefishing trips has been catching very well at the Sisters and south thereof on 4-12 lb. bluefish.

A 155 lb. mako and loads of 10-15 lb. bluefish was the score for Steve Manchin, owner of Capt. Steve's Seafood Restaurant on Woodcleft Avenue and a member of the Freeport Tuna Club. Also aboard Steve's Capt. Kidd were buddies Bernie Ganz, Lennie Koch, Jr., and Cindy . The catch was made around the HA in 145' of water. The fish was weighed in by Lou Stalker at Lou's Fishing Station.

Two makos in 2 trips is batting 100% for Capt. Bill Venetzia of the charter Boat **Ivory Queen.** Thursday's trip for Carl Warco of Bay Shore resulted in the catch of an 80 lb. dusky which was tagged and released plus a 40 lb. mako, which was taken back by the charter for mounting. Sunday's trip for Bob Sanders of M&S Window Shop and group took 35 small to medium blues at Cholera trolling and jigging.

A 5¾ lb. pool fluke was taken Saturday by Doug Carter and group from IBM aboard the charter boat **Mickey II** . A fair day was had fluking in Reynolds Channel. Sunday's trip for Bill Ross and the group from Brotherhood of Temple Emanu-el of Long Beach saw Bill high hook and pool winner with a 2nd 5¾ lb. fish in 2 days taken at the mouth of Reynolds, a highlight in an otherwise lackluster day of fluking. The boat has weekday shark trip openings available for July and the same for tuna trips.

Riis Park was best all week, advised Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** with most fish running 16-18 inches long. Things had slowed down a little locally with the strong tides and weed. On Saturday night's bluefish trip, Francisco Eddy and Perez (no laast names) totalled 112 blues. Over 1000 blues was the combined score for Friday and Sat. night trips with fish to 4 lbs. at the Three Sisters.

Very good fluking this week, said Capt. Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** with the largest fluke of the week 4½ lbs. for Kevin Hartley of Carmel, NY of Clancy, Cullen Corp. on Saturday. A 3 lb. pool fish was taken by Al of Hanover Bank Saturday also. Sunday's trip saw Dick Cartwright and Jay McGuire sharing pool honors on the III and II respectively with fluke of 3 lbs. each. The first blue trip Friday night was a big success with 80 blues taken from 3-12 lbs. on bait and chum SW of the inlet at the Sisters. Tough fishing conditions were encounted by the group fromk West Point Military Academy.

Aboard the charter boat **Lady J III** this week fluke was the target both in local waters and off Riis Park. Wednesday's group was from Xerox. Friday's charter for D.P. Communications Corp of NYC also included small bluefish in their catch from off the Jersey shore. Saturday's fluking was for Dave Moriarty and group of Huntington Station. Sunday's group was Ernie Feldman and buddies from Village Piano Ltd., NYC. Catches were on spearing and squid.

Aboard the **Capt. Lou III** Monday saw the pool fish hit 6 lbs. Tuesday's high hook was 20 keeper fluke. On the **Capt. Lou IV** sailing half days some excellent catches were also made to the tune of 6-15 a man. There were plenty of shorts to liven up the action.

Captain Mike of the **Apus** Charter Fleet on Monday had 8 blue shark, all tagged and released plus a 200 lb. mako. On a Tuesday/Wednesday o vernighter another mako of 24 lbs.

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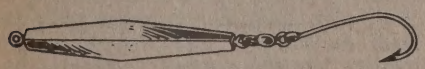

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and a 175 lb. thresher shark was also taken. A 300 lb. dusty was T&R. Friday slowed but there were still blue shark and animal bluefish caught. Captain Mike fished in the Bay Shore Mako Tournament on the weekend and got a possible winning 188 lb. mako. Watch here for definitive results of the tournament

Over in Baldwin, **Arthur St. Fishing Station** reports a lot of fluke brought in by customers fishing Reynolds off the golf course and in the buoy 17 area plus Garretts lead and Debs. Many throwbacks were encountered. Sand eels and squid work well. Scattered 1-2 lb. blues were taken outside the inlet at Point Lookout on tins and small umbrellas. Some small weaks and blues of the 2 lb. variety have been caught at the Meadowbrook on bucktails tipped with squid. Blue claw crabs measuring 4-6 inches across are being taken in Middle Bay and along the docks. Down in Pt. Lookout, **Ed's Fishing Station**inform us the fluking built all through the week including Saturday but was off Sunday due to the blustery winds. On Saturday, Warren Janda and Paul Jerace fished the flats and had 25 good keeper fluke between them. Other skiffs had up to 12 keepers. Best areas were the flats, off the golf course and Reynolds channel buoys 16 and 17. Blackfish action increasing at the PT. Lookout jetty, Meadowbrook bridge and T wreck. Lots of 3-4 lb. fish desirous of fiddlers. Still a few flounder being caught at the CG station and Swift creek on worms.

Excellent fluking this week reported Capt. Ron Murray of the half day fluke boat **Miss Point Lookout**. Note that the boat this Friday is also

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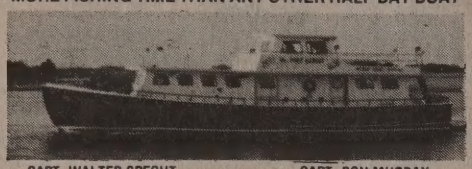

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starting bluefish trips 7PM every night. Some bigger fluke have been taken this week with catches averag - ing 4-10 keeprs a man on the half day trips. Thursday morning 17 keepers was the price for Richie, a regular. But the real hot news is the night bluefishing which is just a short run from the dock. Doug Hall of Bayside and Ken Andruskho of Woodside along with friend Dave Whit of Babylon knocked the socks off 110 blues Saturday night fishing the Three Sisters area. Huey Petridge of Queens filled his sack with 32 blues. This is all bait and chum fishing.

The Merrick Rod and Gun Club Ladies Auxiliary was out Saturday aboard the charter boat **Marie III** and fishing poles 17 and 19 and Garretts lead they had 250 fluke, 30 percent of which were keepers. The pool fish ran 3 lbs. and best was in the back. Sunday's charter for Post Fishing Club of Lindenhurst worked off Riise Park and Playland in the morning and Reynolds in the afternoon with 3 drifts accounting for 300 fluke, 20 percent of which were keepers with a 4 lb. pool fish. Spearing, sand eels and squid was the hook bait. The skipper has July 18 available due to a sudden cancellation.

A 328½ lb. mako was caught Friday aboard Jim Woods Jennie with Malcolm Fraser on the rod. The fish was on for 55 minutes. This was in 130 ft. of water, 155° out of Jones. Good bluefishing off Long Beach and Lido for 3-12 lb. fish. These are being trolled with metal or tubes on the surface. Some excellent flounder still being caught in Middle Bay, some going over 3 lbs. Fluking still a very good item in Sloop Channel, mixed fish.

Over in Long Beach, **Long Beach Sports Marina** called to say fluking in Reynolds Channel has been very good but now there is a 20 percent keeper ratios. The keepers are running larger now. Lee Resnick and father Jerry had fluke up to 5½ lbs. Manny Upelenick scored with 31 keepers Thursday afternoon casting 3/8 oz. bucktail tipped with pork rind at Duck Point on the last of the ebb, fish up to 4½ lbs. Small bluefish swarming at both inlets hitting on just about anything.

To the west at Atlantic Beach Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** says fluking has been super off Riis Park and Breezy Pt. Fifteen-year-old Rich Applebaum of Atlantic Beach fishing on the 4 Queens off Riis Park decked a 6 lb. 11 oz. fluke. There are fluke anywhere from the AB bridge to Debs Inlet and these fish are hungry smashing sand eels, killie, squid and spearing. Blacks at both side of the Atlantic Beach bridge and the silver point jetty. Fiddlers and green crabs are the ticket for fish up to 6 lbs., averaging 2-3 lbs. Umbrellas taking blues at the Tin Can while flounder are still being pulled in the deeper holes on worms.

Over in Isand Park, the **Commodore** reports very good fluking off Riis Park

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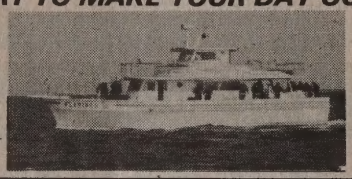

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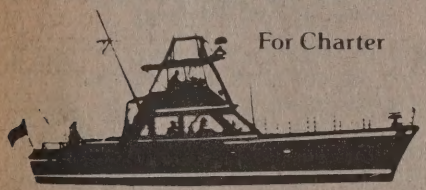

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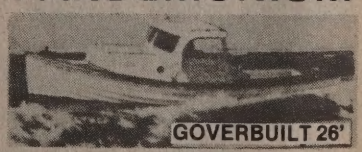

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Andy and Al Rybak used bunker chunks to take 8 blues, including this 12¾ lber., just outside of Deb's Inlet. The catch was checked at Skippy's Bait & Tackle in East Rockway.

and the Tin Can grounds. Friday's high hook of 26 keepers and a 5½ lb. pool fish went to Joe Decker. Saturday's honors wento John Glaser with 29 keepers including a 4½ lb. pool fish. Sunday saw Mickey Nicholson take home 22 keepers and a 4 lb. pool fish. The Bay is also picking up on keepers though the midgets are still swarming. Captain Clem says a thin strip of fluke belly is still your best bet.

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle** advises that on Friday fishing in 100' of water at theNB, Tony Mauro and his two sons Tony Jr, age 11 and Bob, 14, had 15 and 18 lb. blues respectively on trolled umbrellas aboard Tony's Happy Days. Eleven year old Nicole Turst of E. Rockaway fishing on the boat minnow off Riis Park hung a 6.3 fluke on sand eel. Thirty other keepers were taken on the boat Saturday. Charlie advises Debs was very productive this week and a lot of blues have been trolled off the beaches in 30 to 50' of water with larger blues in 90-100' of water.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippys Bait And Tackle in E. Rockaway also lauds the fluking fromk Debs Inlet to Riis Park with some good keepers also taken inthe bay off the high school. Lots of short fish on the inside, however. Crabbing has been very good in Bay Park. Very small snappers of the 2" variety have started to pour in through the inlet. Lots of blues around for trollers and chummers with shark chummers getting into tons of big hungry bluefish that are destroying the shark baits. Charlie Berwind of E. Rockaway did himself proud with a 172 lb. mako taken in 160' of water, 150° SE of Debs. A few schoolie bass at the

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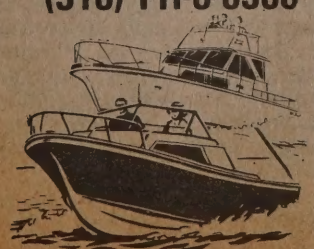

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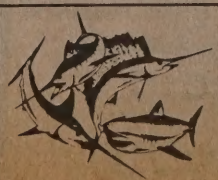

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bridges on bunker and flounder still being caught in the very deep holes on worms. To the west in Jamaica Bay Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** tells of lots of small porgies on sand worms and clams off both bridge, both tides. A lot of blues and a few weaks and stripers on bunker chunks on the bottom off the bridges. Somke good fluke catches on killies off both bridges. Victor Abavia caught an 18¼ lb. striper early Saturday morning off the south channel bridge on a bunker chunk. Joe Rollin joined Victor on Friday and they had two weakfish of 5 and 9½ lbs. and 3 bluefish off the South Channel bridge on chunks. On Sunday, Joe also took an 11½ lb. weak off the south channel bridge on a chunk.

Pat at **J Bay Boat Rental** tells us tht Silver Hole and the area from buoy 15 to the airport is producing nice mixed fluke on spearing and live killie. Snappers being caught around the grassy shore of JFK while bass are still being taken there on June Bug spinners with a bloodworm trailer. Tons and tons of sand porgies all over the bay on worms. Eels and tiny snappers all over the bay also.

Over in Sheepshead Bay Capt. Tom of the **Elsie K III** reports goood fluking Saturday and Sun. off the Highlands. Saturday's pool went to Bob McDonald with a 5½ lb. fluke. Sunday's pool was tkaen by Bill Strobel with a 7¾ lb. fluke. Sand eels are working best and the skipper classifies the fluking as generally good. The boat will b e running moonlight cruises 7PM every Saturday and Sunday all summer. See ad for details.

Very good blackfishing advise Capt. Tom of th **Pilot II** with blacks running 1-6 lbs. off Jersey hotspots. A few half to 1 lb. sea bass mixed in plus a couple of porgies. Saturday's fishing was super said Tom. The afternoon blue and weakfish trips have been excelletn with blues 2-5 lbs. and a few weaks up to 9 lbs. Catches are being made between the channels and off Romer Shoal light on diamond jigs.

On the charterboat **Daybreaker II** skipper Mike Brumm tells us he's been having good fishing on weaks and blues with the blues running 1/2 to 1½ lbs. and weaks 2-4 lbs. Tuesday's catch off Sandy Hook was for a load of mini-blues, 2-4 lbs. followed by 35 blues in the 8-12 lb. range taken about 30 miles off the beach on diamond jigs. Fishing the Klondike are, Mike had 8 weaks to 7 lbs. on diamond jigs and bait tails. Saturday's 2 man charter took 100 blues to 3 lbs. and a dozen weaks on 2 oz. Bait tails off the Highlands and between the channels. Sunday's score was another 100 blues with a lot of white water fishing right up on top. Fish are spitting up tiny mackerel and anchovies.

Over in Staten Island, Kevin at **Santos Sport Shop** says there are still loads of small blues in the 3-5 lb. range everywhere, the water is

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infested with them. Best area would be from New Dorp to Annandale with 8-16 lb. blues from the Beach at Penney and South Beaches, and Cliff St. Boat fishermen taking b ig b lues on trolled red and green tubes and leadhead tubes at can 21, Hoffman Island, and buoy 24, Annandale. Fluking has been excellent with many fish in the 3-5 lb. range, prime areas being buoy 4 Annandale and the CHapel Hill channels.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

WESTERN SOUND

A good weekend of weather provided anglers with a shot at many species in the western sound. Bluefish were generally considered to be the best bet, but porgies also were available. For those who traveled on party boats, flounder off the Norwalk Islands were providing lots of action.

Light tackle feats were noted at **John's** in New Rochelle, where Helen Progner weighed an 11 pound weak taken on 12# line aboard the **Seandra**. Frank Perricone aboard the **Bee-bop II** managed a 20 pound bass on 6#. Dan Lillo and Charley Hopkins pulled a 15 pound striper on bunker chunk. Large blues in the area were spotty, while bottom fishermen did best on flounder and blackfish with a few porgies mixed in.

The **Apache** did a job on flounder to 1½ pounds off Conchini Reef and the Norwalk Islands in shallow water less than 10' deep, where the bottom was rocky and worms worked best. Catches of 10-20 per angler were not unusual and the boat also had a bonus of about 50 tautog daily. Dom Cerbone feels that there's another two weeks of this action still left.

Porgies were moving into Hemp-

Dr. Sanford Vernick with his 6 lb., pool winning blackfish taken at Eaton's Neck aboard the Huntington open boat, "Ever Ready II."

stead Harbor, according to **Jack's** on City Island. Blues have faded for daytime anglers, but the **Ebb Tide** is loading with fish above 6 pounds taken at night. The outstanding catch of the week was O. Maghakian's 32 pound bass.

Blues in the 3 pound class afforded plenty of action off the beaches around Glen Cove at times, but Phil at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** felt that predators were still not into the huge schools of sand eels in that area. There were rumors of a few weaks off Pryble Pier. The **Lady Lil** out of the Glen Cove Marina had a banner day on Friday with the choppers.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Some of the better fishing seems to be outside of the Eatons Triangle with blues the main target and sharpies working weakfish. In some areas, blackfish and flounder action continues, and porgies were making a pretty good early showing.

The largest blues, fish above 8 pounds, were spotted Friday off Norwalk on top according to George Valentine at **Four Winds**. Fish from 3-5 pounds could be taken in Smithtown Bay and off Diamond Point Buoy 15 on umbrellas. Night drifters using worms were doing well on weaks off Ashroken, Lloyds, and Marshall Field. Hen fish over 6 pounds were full of roe. Flounder off Eatons ran up to 1¾ pounds with sizes all the way from ½ pound. Even the flatties are feeding on tiny sandeels. Most blackfish accepting worms in the shallow areas are 3-4 pound fish, and some porgies were showing well off Marshall Field at times.

Scott Horan and John Smith weighed 17 bass to 17 pounds at **Huntington Prop** on Sunday. The fish were taken while worm trolling. Robert Wolfhurst had a 25½ pound bass on a live eel, and Bob Michael accounted for 8 weakfish from 4-10 pounds off West Neck Beach.

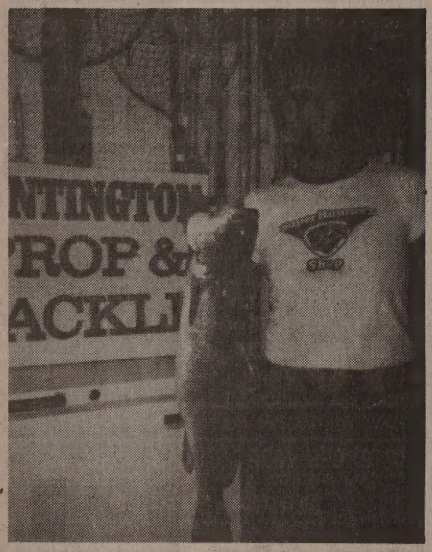
There were mixed blues and weaks off Lloyds Point, according to **Ronnie** Ferraro. Most of the blues in the shallow areas were ¾ pound cocktails with the big fish in deeper water.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** feels that the best bet until the fish settle into the triangle is to anchor and fish 3-5' of water at night between Lloyds, Eatons and Sunken Meadow with sandworms for the weaks. The blues haven't really settled in yet, but Sunday results were encouraging. 30 fares jigged 100 fish with 2-3 ounce Tiger Tails. Choppers were in the 4-7 pound class. Evening trips were hot and cold with best results on Friday. John Alberta and Jim Schneider filled the box with 91 blues in the Outflow and got the rest of the customers started, while Alberta himself handled a 12 pound weak. Billy Collins found 165 porgies with the **Packy IV** for Jessie Poritz ana a party of four at Cranes.

Bowmans was raving about the millions of 2-3 pound blues off the Lilco Northport plant. Kastmasters and Hopkins were the tickets. Choppers in the larger sizes could be found 5 miles out from Cranes on top with large weaks packed around the beach off the Coast Guard Station. Tin and Rebels worked on the weaks. Tom Bowman cautioned that the overall blackfishing was very poor.

Porgies ranging from 1 pound to humpbacks were providing good action off Old Field and Crane Neck according to Tim Caraftis at the **Caraftis Station** in Port Jefferson. Chummers fishing clams and worms on outgoing water had the best results. Several weaks over 6 pounds showed up as by-catches for porgy fans over the weekend.

Great moments and slumps were characteristic of last weeks fishing on both Port Jeff party boats, the **Aqua Gem** and the **Captain Hank**. John Fisher of the former described some super porgy fishing around the last two hours of tide for scup running 1½ pounds or better. Henry Olsen felt that porgy fishing could be better and that the schoolie blues in the 1½ to 3 pound range, showing from the top to mid-depth were even more reliable. The Stratford Shoal in 80-100' of water may be a better bet for larger fish.



The Obstruction buoy off of Eaton's Neck produced this 9 lb. weakfish for John Freda. It was weighed at Huntington Prop & Tackle.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in Mount Sinai ended the report with a sour note by describing the activities of the 90' draggers operating out of Freeport and New Jersey Ports. Pulling three abreast with 125' opening over bottoms, these boats had swept the porgies out of that area along with lots of spawning tautog.

Fluking off the Mount Sinai area hadn't picked up yet and there were a few weakfish taken on Saturday night with an 11 pound 5 ounce fish hauled on a jelly worm.

NORTH FORK

Variety was the spice of life in catches to the east. Party boats and livery craft had the best action on bottom fish with some activity on small bluefish and an occasional weak.

Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's** saw a lot of porgies running around in front of small blues between Roses Grove and the South Race Buoy 25. Scup sizes were 1-1½ pounds and those who chummed bunker and fished clams and worms had a pick all day on both scup and blowfish and a few kingfish. One nice fluke weighed in at the Station went 6 pounds.

Ace Cottral had alot of boats out of the **Port of Egypt Station** over the weekend and described the porgy fishing to the east as picky from the Middle Grounds, Jessups, South Ferry, and Cedar Point. Weakfish could be found for a few anglers who tried squid off the Lawns and in the Brickyard, and there were occasional fluke to be taken off Paradise Point and in the Brickyard, and there were occasional fluke to be taken off Paradise Point and in the Brickyard. Small blues in 1-3 pound sizes set up shop in the evenings for diamond jigs in the Jessups zone.

Action in the Mattituck area of the Sound was most reliable from the Inlet to the Pipeline according to the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station.** Quite a few shorts were mixed with the keeper fluke to 3 pounds and porgies ranged from ½ to 1½ pounds.

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** saw numbers of 3-4 pound blackfish still coming from the pipeline on clams and fiddler crabs. Weaks have petered out and the high catch of fluke on the weekend was 20 keepers.

Small blacks were showing off the Lighthouse and off Orient and the first porgies were showing around the Port of Egypt station on the sound. Draggers got into the fluke off Trumans two weeks ago and squelched the early run there; flatties have not returned yet. There are still some flounder on both sides of the Point.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** saw a lot of small blues from Hay Beach all the way to Jessups, and described fair porgy fishing down east at Gardiners with flounder off Petty's. White thinks that the month of July will probably see the real breakout in action. The Kekkoman party of 19 had a really good day of bottom fishing over the weekend, according to White, and George Porter did a job on porgies with the **Brand X.**

Porter desribed the fishing in more detail for the report. The Sunday afternoon tide was best off Gardiners with 6 ounces of lead necessary on the flood. Fish were mixed sizes with small to large fish in shallow water to

FISHING REPORTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 58.

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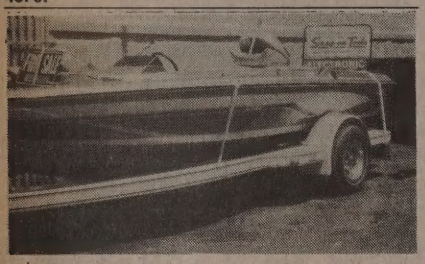

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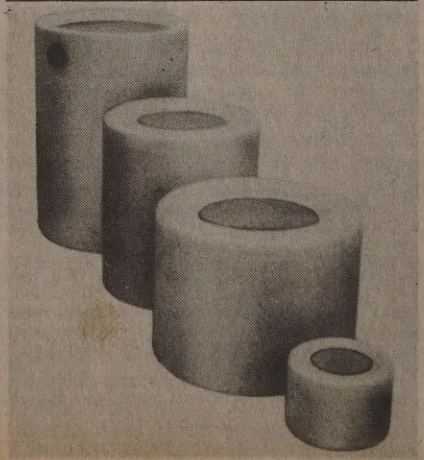

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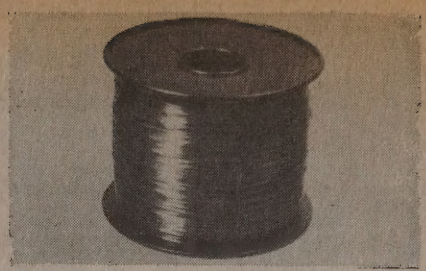

QUALITY WIRE LINE. #304 single strand soft stainless steel, very flexible, extra strong & easy to handle. Long-time favorite of charter captains, now avail. to sport fishermen on money saving bulk spools. 40 lb., .023 dia., 3,544', $36.35; 50 lb., .025 dia., 3,000', $34.20; 60 lb., .028 dia., 2390', $32.95. Add $1.50 for shipping. Orders shipped immediately. Visa, Master Card, check. BAY CITY TACKLE, Box 253B, Agawam, Mass. 01001. 413-786-3706.

Are you ready for the blues? You will be if you have the ultimate jig. We call it the Anchovie Jig, but you can call it bunker jig, smelt jig, sand eel jig, or baitfish jig. Bluefish call it too good to resist. 4 oz. Chrome Anchovie plain hook $1.99; tube tail, green or red, $2.19. If you really want to catch a lot of blues, send money order with your order to: LURE MASTER TACKLE CO., 105-05 Liberty Ave., Richmond Hills, NY 11417. 212-843-9106. Bulk prices avail. on request.

STOP LOSING FISH, lures, lines! Fishing Knots Manual shows step-by-step, best proven knots, end-loops, droppers, splices, for sea, lake, stream. $3.00 REDLAC COMPANY, Box 175, Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

The Whale is Spouting, Everyone's Shouting about the new low prices at ADKINS FISHING TACKLE. New catalog, $1.00, refunded with order. P.O. Box 224, Mt. Sinai, N.Y. 11766.

Catch more fish—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for Free Catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, New Jersey 07032.

MISCELLANEOUS

1978 Coachmen Pick-up Camper 11½' rear dinette, 6 cu. ft. Frig., bath. Excl. cond. $3500. 516-HR 3-5714.

LICENSED CAPTAIN: Wanted to run LCM-3 on part time basis. Some mechanical knowledge required. 516-567-4669.

GULF STREAM CHARTERS: Great South Bay, Ocean, Canyon; 32' twin diesel. Attractive rates. 516-587-7383.

WANTED: Parts for 1974 50 h.p. Johnson outboard motor. 516-799-1271.

FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART—shows 85 salt & fresh water species native to our East Coast. Lithographed in beautiful, lifelike color on heavy, coated stock. Suitable for framing; size 36"x24". Send ck. or M.O. for $9.95 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

TAXIDERMY SERVICE—hunting, fishing supplies & licenses. Bwana Jim's Trading Post, 2145 Rt. 112, Medford. 654-3859; 588-8829.

VIZSLA, Pups M/F, Champion Lines. Hunting/Show. Shots; parents on premises. 516-331-9260.

SWIMMING FLOAT/DOCK. 9'x7'x1' - about 1200 lbs. Very heavy construction, ladder, 4 handrails, 2 Danforth 75 lb. anchors & 60' heavy chain. All painted & ready to go. With heavy construction trolley on rubber tires to put float into water. $1500. 516-883-7026 or 212-867-2680.

Boat Cleaning—we come to your home or approving marina. Bottoms done; compounding, waxing. 212-894-0335.

DIESEL Dyno Specialist avail. for engine consulting, installations & general service. Call Marine Tech, 516-432-8565.

Charter, 43' Albin Trawler; by the day, bare boat. Located North Shore. Capt. Jerry, 212-347-4810.

Continued On Next Page

Furs, Deerhides, claw jewelry; many services offered. Too many to mention. Write HANNIBAL FURS, Blue Earth, MN 56013 or call: 507-526-2594.

Mercury Cruiser engines & stern drives. Tuneups, repairs and overhauls. HIGHLAND MARINE, 516-587-7567.

BOAT LETTERING: Have an idea? Need one? Creative & professional work. Call Richie: 516-666-9656.

SOLID BRASS Belt Buckle engraved w/one of the above designs. Anchor or wheel personalized free w/your name, boat, or club name. One buckle, one web belt, send $8.95 pp. & NYS sales tax w/engraved request; belt size; color choice of belt—navy, buff, white. OCEANPORT PRODUCTS, Box 431, Long Beach, NY 11561.

GRALITE WADERS—In stock. At discount prices; for immediate delivery. These waders have a 5-year warranty. Write: THE SURFCASTER, Dept. Y, 113 Maywood Rd. Darien, CT 06820; or call 203-866-1289. #39

WANTED—Vintage marine clocks, barometers, thermometers, telescopes, lanterns, portholes & related nautical items. 516-354-2668.

LEHMAN Turbo's may snap head bolts & blow head gaskets. Don't wait; call Marine Tech, 516-432-8565.

Atlantic Chartering Service, 26' Carver, 1-4 passenger. Fully equip. Reasonable rates. For information & reservations, contact Captain Paul, 516-488-5507.

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MARINE BUSINESS, South Shore of Long Island. Sale incl: 1.5 acres, 445' bulkheaded, 3Br house; fully equip. service shop. All in excl. cond. Established 25 years; Gross income $235,000; Sale price $230,000. Cash required $80,000; retiring owner will finance balance at 9%. Avail. for 1982 season. For appt. call: GOLD KEY ASSOC., Exclusive Broker. 516-728-1100.

Prime Freeport location. Available for Lease: 2 slips for draggers/gill netters with freezer/cooler & building. 212-352-2989.

20'. High hook was 90 fish, and the biggest porgy in many weeks went 3 pounds on a scale. Pool fish inevitably are blackfish.

Richie Jensen went to New London over the weekend with the **Nancy Ann** and found all the flounder you wanted to 1½ pounds. There is not much silver down New London way, however, even out to 45' depths, and the tides run strongly with 6-8 ounces of lead the rule. (This according to George Porter.) Jensen has alternated between flounder and the blues in the Bay which he's been trolling with umbrellas.

Roddy DeLisle did well on porgies off Gardiners with the **Prowler** and the **Blue Albatross** has been working the sound as an open boat a for a mixed bag during the week. Operating as a charter boats over the weekend, she hauled New London flounder with excellent catches.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

Surf reports this week were for the most part scattered and inconsistent with that hot fishing in the western end of L.I. Sound winding down to mostly small bluefish. Staten Island remains predominantly bluefish with most of the choppers in this area larger than their north shore couterparts.

Kevin Koncelik of **Santo's Sport Shop** in Staten Island said that lots of blues, most 3-5 pounds, are spread along the beaches from New Dorp to Annandale. Tins are doing the damage with these fish. 8-16 pound choppers are settled in at Penny Beach and Cliff St. where both bunker chunks and plugs have been effective. In the plug department, go with large poppers or Danny swimmers. No word on any bass this week but there is lots of bait in the area in the form of bunker, sandeels, and spearing.

Working our way west Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in Seaford relayed word that surf regular "Red Beard" has been picking away at blues and weaks on bait in the Cedar Gilgo area. Sand worms take the weaks while bunker chunks have been taking the choppers. Lon also heard that there have been occasional flurries of small blues on the west end jetties with tin. One of several stripers that came to our attention was the 30 pounder weighed at **Augies Bait and Tackle** in Babylon by Bill Lonnicke. The fish was taken early Saturday morning at Gilgo. Ed Reinsch checked a 33 pound striper in at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** in Baldwin Thursday morning. Ed said that he took the bass on a Danny plug before dawn at Cedar Beach.

Jim McGrath settled for a 15 pound striper which he took out of the Robert Moses surf Sunday morning. He checked that fish in at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in East Islip.

Out in Shinnecock, Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that Ocean beaches have been quiet this week and he has had no word of any activity at the Inlet. He did know of plenty of blues ranging between 1 and 4 pounds at Long Beach, Cow's Neck, Towd Point and Sebonac Inlet. The mouth of Heady creek in Shinnecock bay also had its quota of small-blues. Tins and popping plugs turn the trick mornings and evenings.

Despite very few casters at the Point this week, some good weakfishing was sampled by a couple of lucky anglers. Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in Montauk told of Walter Cikowski who put away 12 weaks Saturday night at Shagwong. Jack (Chinaman) Yee working from atop weakfish rock on Sunday night totalled 10 weaks with most in the 8-12 pound range. Redfin and Droppa combos did the damage. John knew that a couple of sharp surfmen worked the light over the weekend but did nothing.

Working our way up to the North Shore, small blues mostly in the 2-3 pound range roaming up and down the local shoreline according to Dave Watt of **Glen Cove Sport Shop**. Tins or small plugs are taking these fish.

To the east small blues are scattered along beaches from Lloyds Point to Makamah. Lots of fish in the hot water outflow at the Northport power plant on tin. Most of these fish are in the 1-3 pound range. An occasional school bass being taken along these same beaches.

Surf activity seemed to move to the east this week if the report relayed by Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** is any indication. Stan called the fishing greatly improved and added that the beaches are now loaded with bait, mostly in the form of sandeels. Ther have been lots of small blues all week long but larger fish have put in an appearance in recent days and a number of 8-12 pound choppers have been taken from area beaches. Stan had just finished a 10¼ pounder for George Neeves when I spoke to him. George took the fish from a local beach on a Hopkins. Weakfishing came alive between Cedar Beach and Rocky Point this week and Stan weighed a number of fish to 10½ pounds. Small tins such as the Tri-Fin spoon jig worked best mornings and evenings while eel worms, and swimmers such as Rebels and Redfins take over after dark. Some school bass east of Wading River but overall bassing is slow.

Ed Kopchak of **Warren's Tackle Shop** in Aquebogue repeated last weeks report of things being very quiet along North Fork Beaches but he did add "to his knowledge." He did hear rumors of a few fish down at Horton's Point but could not substantiate them.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	4:55	5:35	6:00	6:30	5:40	6:15	7:00	7:20	9:25	9:45	8:45	9:00	4:50	5:20	7/1
FRI.	5:50	6:20	6:50	7:15	6:35	7:00	7:50	8:00	10:15	10:30	9:35	9:50	5:40	6:05	7/2
SAT.	6:40	7:00	7:35	7:55	7:25	7:45	8:30	8:40	11:00	11:15	10:20	10:30	6:30	6:50	7/3
SUN.	7:25	7:40	8:15	8:35	8:10	8:25	9:10	9:15	11:40	11:50	11:00	11:10	7:15	7:35	7/4
MON.	8:05	8:20	9:00	9:15	8:50	9:00	9:45	9:50	–	12:20	11:40	11:50	7:55	8:15	7/5
TUE.	8:45	8:55	9:35	9:50	9:30	9:40	10:25	10:25	12:20	12:55	–	12:15	8:40	8:55	7/6
WED.	9:20	9:35	10:15	10:25	10:15	10:15	11:05	11:05	12:35	1:10	12:25	12:55	9:20	9:35	7/7
THUR.	10:00	10:10	10:50	11:05	10:55	10:50	11:45	11:45	12:50	1:25	1:05	1:30	10:05	10:15	7/8

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

7/2	5:28	8:40
7/3	5:29	8:40
7/4	5:29	8:40
7/5	5:30	8:39
7/6	5:30	8:39
7/7	5:31	8:38
7/8	5:32	8:38

Moonrise/Moonset

7/2	5:25PM	2:59AM
7/3	6:23PM	3:32AM
7/4	7:19PM	4:09AM
7/5	8:11PM	4:52AM
7/6	8:58PM	5:39AM
7/7	9:41PM	6:32AM
7/8	10:18PM	7:28AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/20	7/27	7/6	7/14

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:05	**8:10**	2:20	**8:30**
Fri.	2:45	**8:50**	3:00	**9:10**
Sat.	3:25	**9:30**	3:40	**10:00**
Sun.	4:15	**10:15**	4:25	**10:40**
Mon.	4:55	**11:00**	5:10	**11:25**
Tues.	5:40	**11:45**	5:45	—
Wed.	6:25	**12:10**	6:50	**12:35**
Thurs.	7:15	**1:05**	7:45	**1:30**

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July 1, 2, & 3
★3 DAY SALE★

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SAT., JULY 3, 8:30AM—6PM

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